Hafa Adai!

# Saipan Tribune

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MMA fighter Kelvin Fitial allegedly assaults man. PAGE 2

Autopsy: Brain contusion, laceration killed Gonzales. PAGE 3

# About 300 facing deportation, 200 umbrella permits revoked

» Kaipat calls Brown 'reckless'

» AG clarifies CNMI Labor roles

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Deputy Labor Secretary Jacinta M. Kaipat said yesterday that the names of some 300 foreigners are ready to be referred "soon" to the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement for deportation, while some 200 umbrella permits issued to foreigners have so far been revoked.

See DEPORTATION on Page 4

Kaipat

## WITH THOUSANDS OF JOBLESS ALIEN WORKERS

## 'Allow workers to put up small businesses'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The United Workers Movement-NMI has urged U.S. Department of Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano to grant a parole that will allow long-term alien workers who

See WORKERS on Page 4

## Suspect in kidnapping of girl falls

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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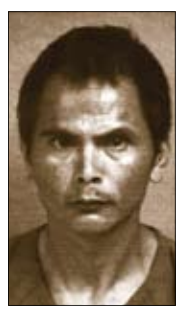
REPORTER



Hocog

Police arrested yesterday midnight the suspect in the kidnapping of a 5-year-old girl from a laundry shop in Kagman III last week.

Steven Hocog, 35, was served with an arrest warrant at 12:33am yesterday

See SUSPECT on Page 4

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

**REPAINTING**

Edmund Malabunga, an employee of HBR International, works on the ongoing repainting of the NMI Retirement Fund building on Capital Hill yesterday afternoon. The NMI Retirement Fund's three-story building is one of the most modern infrastructures on Capital Hill.

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**OPINION METER**

This week's poll:
Do you intend to participate in the 24th Annual Red Cross Walkathon on Saturday, March 27?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

INSIDE

**No Stimulus**
Hispanic and black businesses are receiving a small number of federal stimulus contracts.

BUSINESS...Page 13

**Better Car**
Hyundai keeps building better and better vehicles. Exhibit A: The 2011 Sonata.

OVERDRIVE...Page 17

**Oscarfest**
The Iraq War drama "The Hurt Locker" wins best picture and five other prizes at the Academy Awards.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 18

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# Local

## MMA fighter Fitial allegedly assaults man

### Another MMA fighter allegedly attacks 3 persons

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Known mixed martial arts fighter Kelvin David Fitial allegedly beat up a man for no apparent reason in Garapan, while another MMA fighter, Maitai K. Charley, allegedly assaulted a couple and a man in Susupe, resulting in a child being traumatized.

Fitial, 26, was arrested Friday for assault with a dangerous weapon, assault and battery, and disturbing the peace. A $5,000 cash bail was initially imposed for his temporary liberty. He was taken to the Superior Court yesterday afternoon for a bail hearing.

Charley, 26, was arrested on Friday for assault and battery, criminal mischief, and disturbing the peace. A $3,000 cash bail was imposed for his temporary liberty. Associate judge Kenneth Govendo ordered him to stay away from the victims and Winchell's Donut in Susupe.

Detective Jackson W. Jack stated in his report that Scot Thompson went to the Department of Public Safety on Feb. 12 to report that Fitial beat him up along Beach Road near The Flair, a night club in Garapan.

Thompson told police that Fitial punched him several times for no apparent reason. The victim sustained a black eye from the assault.

Jack said preliminary investigation showed that Thompson was about to leave in a car with a friend, Jong Sung Kim, when Fitial passed by in another car and shouted at them.

Fitial

Charley

Fitial, who allegedly smelled of alcohol, got out from his car, approached Scott and Kim, who were already inside their car, and cussed them.

When Thompson asked if there's a problem, Fitial allegedly peppered him with 15 to 20 punches in the face.

As Thompson was trying to remove his seat belt to get out of the car, Kim stopped him, started the car, and they left the area.

Thompson said he felt pain in his left eye and his vision was blurred.

Detective Jack noted in his report that Fitial is a well known mixed martial arts fighter in the CNMI and in the Pacific region.

Detectives are now looking into other reports that Fitial may be involved in beating other persons who have yet to step forward to complain.

In Charley's case, detective P. Cabrera said a boy witnessed how the MMA fighter pushed and kicked his father, Chito Cristobal.

Cabrera said the 10-year-old boy is so traumatized that he has been having nightmares since the night of the incident. The boy is also reportedly suffering from bowel disorder.

Cristobal sustained a slight contusion on his head.

The detective stated in his report that a police officer responded to Winchell's in Susupe last Feb. 6 at 11:18pm after the Department of Public Safety received a call about an assault and battery incident.

Preliminary investigation showed that Feminencio Fernando and his wife, Maria Fernando, had just arrived at Winchell's in their car when a man, later identified as Charley, approached their vehicle, shouting.

Charley tried to open the doors of the car but when he failed to do so, he punched the front passenger door of the vehicle and kicked it thrice, damaging the center portion of the door.

Fearing for their safety, Mrs. Fernando, who was sitting in the front passenger seat, ran out of the car and ducked into Winchell's, yelling for help.

Inside Winchell's were Cristobal and his minor son, and another man. To protect his son, Cristobal stood by the entrance and met Charley.

Cristobal asked Charley to respect the place, but the defendant allegedly pushed him twice on the chest and kicked him once on the face.

"Charley then makes an ugly face gesture, sticking his tongue out toward them before walking out of Winchell's," Cabrera said.

Responding police officers arrested Charley that same night.

Cabrera said that Charley is a well-trained MMA fighter, who is actively involved in organized MMA events.

## 9 charges vs rookie cop in wife's beating

The Office of the Attorney General filed nine charges yesterday against a police officer who allegedly fired his gun at his common-law wife during a fight at their residence.

The OAG charged Police Officer 1 Kelani Vincent Pangelinan with assault with a dangerous weapon, violating an order of protection, sexual assault in the first degree, assault and battery, criminal mischief, kidnapping, and three counts of illegal possession of ammunition.

Assistant attorney general George L. Hasselback stated in the charging document that on Feb. 28, 2010, the 21-year-old Pangelinan unlawfully confined the victim and sexually assaulted her. Hasselback said the assault happened in the presence of a child.

The police officer also illegally possessed various ammunitions, he said.

Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth Govendo imposed a $100,000 cash bail for Pangelinan's temporary liberty and set the preliminary hearing for yesterday.

The incident allegedly started when Pangelinan accused his wife of having an affair. He threw a wine bottle through a window and took out a gun, shooting one round above the victim's head, the bullet hitting the wall. He allegedly shot another round past her left ear.

Pangelinan allegedly did not allow the victim to leave the room and had sex with her against her will. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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A weekly update from the Marianas Visitors Authority
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**Sports Marketing of Our "Active" Islands**

What better place to train, compete and play sports than the Northern Mariana Islands, a destination renown for its blue skies, clean environment, and one of the most consistent year round temperatures in the world? The Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA) is capitalizing on those assets with its promotions of Saipan, Tinian and Rota as "active" islands where sporting opportunities abound year round.

Last weekend's **Saipan Marathon**, half-marathon, and 10K run attracted nearly 600 participants, including approximately 400 Japanese. The superior ocean views offered by the Saipan course and the island's proximity to Japan are expected to quickly make this MVA signature event one of the most popular regional runs for Japanese runners. Tinian and Rota will also get their fair share of attention this year with the signature **11th Tinian Turquoise Blue Triathlon and Reef Swim** on June 12 and 17th Annual Rota Blue triathlon on November 13.

The MVA is also capitalizing on the high popularity of Managaha in Japan and other countries. Collaborating with Kiyokazu Fitness Club of Saipan, the MVA will host the **1st Annual Hunt for Managaha** on May 16, a 2-mile swim from Saipan to the award-winning island. The **Saipan International Flipper** race inaugurated last year by the MVA will return for its second year on June 12, when the MVA and its partners hope to attract 100 visitors for a swim around the island.

As the MVA works to improve training facilities on island, professional sports teams such as the **LG Twins** of Korea are also bringing their players and international media attention to the Northern Marianas.

The list of possibilities continues with the MVA's support of this month's **21st Tagaman Triathlon**, the **9th XTERRA Saipan Championship**, and annual tournaments for volleyball, sport fishing, windsurfing and more.

Get "active" today! Help support tourism by supporting these local sporting events.

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MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY

This Tourism Tuesday space is provided by Saipan Tribune

# Autopsy: Brain contusion, laceration killed Gonzales

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

An autopsy showed that Larry Gonzales, the victim of a fatal assault in Kagman last week, died due to brain contusion and laceration.

Department of Public Safety's acting spokesman Jason Tarkong said yesterday that Guam chief medical examiner Dr. Aurelio Espinola determined that Gonzales' death was caused by a subdural hematoma.

"This was caused by a brain contusion, laceration due to blunt trauma," Tarkong said.

Subdural hematoma, also called subdural hemorrhage, is usually the result of a serious head injury, according to medical books.

Hocog

Espinola conducted the autopsy on Gonzales at the Commonwealth Health Center on Friday night.

Last Thursday, police arrested 22-year-old Shane Jonathan Hocog, who allegedly punched Gonzales on March 1 near Kagman High School, causing his death.

Hocog is now facing charges of voluntary manslaughter, aggravated assault and battery, and assault and battery.

During Thursday's hearing, associate judge Kenneth Govendo imposed a $100,000 cash bail plus many other conditions on the suspect.

Preliminary hearing was set for March 15 at 9am.

Gonzales, a 37-year-old Filipino male, was pronounced dead by a doctor at CHC on Thursday at 4:45pm due to severe head injury. He had been in coma since being taken to CHC last March 1.

Detective Simon T. Manacop stated in his report that a disturbance was reported to DPS on March 1 at 5:35pm.

Manacop said a responding police officer learned that a male person, later identified as Hocog, had punched the victim in the face. Gonzales fell and hit his head on the concrete pavement, losing consciousness in the process.

The officer interviewed a female juvenile who witnessed the incident and claimed that the suspect was Hocog, her boyfriend. The juvenile told police that Hocog was possibly jealous of Gonzales.

During another interview with the juvenile on Thursday at her residence in Kagman, she told police that Hocog was actually her former boyfriend. The juvenile said they broke up about five months ago and that she later met Gonzales, who became her boyfriend. The juvenile said she ended her relationship with Gonzales a month ago.

# CPA board OKs return of employees, retirees to govt life insurance

## Contract with existing insurance carrier to be terminated

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

All 192 employees and retirees of the Commonwealth Ports Authority will be returning to the Group Health Life Insurance after all.

The CPA board instructed management yesterday to re-enroll employees and retirees with Individual Assurance Co. and see how the agency could terminate its existing contract with insurance carrier USAble Life.

CPA board chair Jose Lifoifoi disclosed this yesterday following an hour-long executive session with Individual Assurance Co. resident general agent Donald Barcinas.

Although it was not discussed in the open session, Lifoifoi said it is the desire of the board to return all 192 employees and retirees to the government program.

"We will return to the government plan and we will terminate our contract with the existing insurance carrier. Our legal counsel is now looking into the agreement and see what are the requirements to terminat[ing] that agreement," the chairman said.

CPA pulled out from the government life insurance plan in 1997 and inked a contract with its current carrier. However, under its existing contract with USAble Life, insurance coverage does not include retirees.

Lifoifoi disclosed that some CPA retirees have already threatened to sue the agency for their non-coverage in the insurance plan, thus the decision to shift back to government insurance, which is handled by IAC.

CPA executive director Edward Deleon Guerrero disclosed yesterday that as soon as the contract is terminated with USAble Life, enrollment with IAC will commence. IAC has given the agency until April to revert to government insurance.

IAC's contract provides benefits for employees and retirees. In addition to the basic life insurance and accidental death and dismemberment benefits offered to CPA employees, CPA retirees will also be eligible to receive basic life insurance benefits. IAC described this as a valuable benefit to both currently retired and individuals and active employees who look forward to retirement.

IAC agreed to re-enroll CPA employees on the condition that CPA retirees will continue with their insurance coverage, 75 percent of the agency's personnel will enroll with IAC, and everything must be done before May 1, Deleon Guerrero said.

CPA has 192 employees in all three airports and seaports on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

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March 9, 2010, Tuesday
- 5 PM to 9 PM
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March 13, 2010, Saturday
- 8 AM to 12 noon
- Sabalu Market Civic Center in Susupe

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*You can also visit any health clinic on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota to get vaccinated.*

For more information, visit the Department of Public Health's H1N1 Preparedness Website at http://h1n1dph.gov.mp .

## PACIFIC BRIEFS

### Prison for eight in Fiji assassination plot

**SUVA, Fiji** (Fijilive/PIR)—Fiji High Court judge Justice Paul Madigan today said he is convinced that the plot to kill Bainimarama was orchestrated by businessman Ballu Khan, in collaboration with the accused eight. Madigan made the statement while sentencing the eight men accused of planning to kill Fiji's Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama in a packed courtroom this afternoon. Madigan said Ballu Khan's business interests in Fiji waned after the Military takeover in December 2006, and that Khan was eager to restore "his fortunes to their former felicitous state". He said the idea of weakening the Military, "removing" Bainimarama and the President, and ridding the country of Indo-Fijians had both sinister and racial intentions. He also said that a sentence for a conspiracy charge could not favor or disfavor any particular conspirator, and that "they were in it together and will be punished together."

### Three-year probe finds massive PNG corruption

**MELBOURNE, Australia** (Radio Australia)—An inquiry into Papua New Guinea's Finance Department has found hundreds of millions of dollars was paid out in fraudulent claims against the state. A commission of inquiry has spent three years investigating the Finance Department. The Prime Minister Sir Michael Somare tabled its report in Parliament yesterday and says people will "shudder in awe" at the level of corruption exposed. The inquiry found hundreds of millions of dollars was paid out in fraudulent claims against the state because public officials didn't do their jobs. The report details a litany of procedural breaches and collusion by bureaucrats with lawyers and other parties to process fraudulent claims.

### Japan brings solar energy to Tonga isles

**NUKUALOFA, Tonga** (Matangi Tonga/PIR)—Eleven remote islands in Vava'u and off Tongatapu will benefit from the installation of new solar power home systems this year under a Project funded by the Japanese Government. The project "Introduction of Clean Energy by Solar Home System in Tonga," comes under a Japanese Grant Aid Program for Environment and Climate Change that was approved by the Japanese Government on February 26. The project will provide more than 500 units of Solar Home Systems to be installed in 11 remote island communities in Vava'u, 'Eueiki, and 'Atata in Tongatapu. Next week on March 12, Tonga's Prime Minister Hon Dr Feleti Sevele and the Japanese Ambassador in Tonga HE Yasuo Takase will sign of the Exchange of Notes before implementation of the project.

### Fiji women outpace men in micro loans

**SUVA, Fiji** (Fiji Times/PIR)—More than 21,600 women were beneficiaries of micro-finance scheme. While addressing the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women Commission in New York earlier this week, Doctor Jiko Luveni -- who holds the portfolio for Women, Social Welfare and Poverty Alleviation -- said of the 24,000 beneficiaries of Fiji's micro-finance scheme, 90 per cent were women. She said Fiji's target of having 30 per cent representation of women on all boards and committees was slowly progressing. Dr Luveni said at the community level, more than 300 women, mostly in rural areas, had become members of hospital boards since 2008. She said policies for women had been incorporated into the second Women's Plan of Action (2010-2019) to advance efforts to attain the goals of the Beijing Platform.

### Australia grants Tonga $4 million for health

**NUKUALOFA, Tonga** (Matangi Tonga/PIR)—The Australian Government has committed AU$7 million [US$4.6 million] for three years funding of a new Health Systems Support Program with Tonga's Ministry of Health, focussing on key priority health areas such as reducing the prevalence of non communicable diseases in the country and will help to improve community health care. Marking the start of the program this year, the signing of a Health Systems Support Program Subsidiary Arrangement on March 4 was held at the Janfull International Hotel between the Australian High Commissioner in Tonga HE Dr Bruce Hunt, with the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Health Hon Dr Viliami Tangi, and the Minister of Finance Hon 'Afu'alo Matoto. Dr Hunt said the new program of support gives the Ministry of Health access to AUD$7 million over three years to allocate to its priorities and to meet targets.

## SUSPECT

*From Page 1*

for kidnapping, disturbing the peace, and assault and battery. He was set to appear in the Superior Court yesterday afternoon for a bail hearing.

Department of Public Safety spokesman Jason Tarkong said that police were able to identify Hocog from video surveillance taken at the scene.

Tarkong said that Hocog matched the description given by the child victim.

Through witnesses, police located Hocog's house, which is near the crime scene, Tarkong said. Police went to Hocog's house that same day, but the suspect was not there at the time.

"Police were able to get family members to positively identify Hocog as the person seen in the video footage," Tarkong said.

He said witnesses confirmed that Hocog was at the crime scene during the kidnapping.

The girl was reportedly injured after being kidnapped by a man from Rio II Poker and Laundry in Kagman III on Tuesday night. The victim was lured out of the Laundromat and brought to an abandoned house, where she later managed to escape.

The girl sustained minor scratches on her hands, legs, and chin. Police said bruises were also visible on the child's neck consistent with her claim that she was kidnapped and that the suspect choked her.

A doctor at the Commonwealth Health Center reportedly examined the girl and found no physical signs of sexual contact.

## WORKERS

*From Page 1*

have U.S. citizen children put up small businesses.

UHM president Rabby Syed said a grant of parole for guest workers is within Napolitano's authority and that this would keep the workers' families together, allow them to engage in small enterprises for livelihoods, and provide a stable labor pool for employers.

"We believe this grant of parole will not only enhance our own lives and the lives of our families, but also the local economy of the CNMI, and it will pose no burden to U.S. taxpayers. We have much to contribute to the betterment of these islands, if given the opportunity to do so," Syed told the DHS Secretary in the letter.

The UHM president said the parole will let qualified workers remain in the Commonwealth and support themselves and their families as freelance workers or entrepreneurs.

"As guest workers we have lived and worked lawfully in the CNMI for many years—some as long as 20 or more years," he said.

### Confusion

Syed said many alien workers have been receiving notices that their job contracts will not be renewed. He said these workers find it difficult to find new jobs, especially since there is much confusion about the rules that now apply to hiring guest workers. As a result, he said, prospective employers are reluctant to consider the workers' applications.

"At the same time, although many of us have business experience and skills that would allow us to support ourselves and our families as small business entrepreneurs or freelance employees, we have been prohibited thus far from doing so because of our status as guest workers and because we do not qualify for foreign investor status," Syed added.

### Jobless

Syed told *Saipan Tribune* that thousands of alien workers are now jobless. Since many of these workers have children born in the CNMI, they mostly rely on food stamps.

"But food stamps cannot buy gas and school supplies," Syed pointed out.

Syed told Napolitano that many workers are now struggling to sustain the needs of their families, including their children.

" Most of our children were born in the CNMI and are citizens of the U.S., but are still too young to petition for us to gain a more permanent status. We worry every day about our fate and the fate of our children, and only desire the opportunity to keep our families together and to support them to the best of our abilities," he said.

## DEPORTATION

*From Page 1*

Kaipat was responding to a question from Senate President Paul A. Manglona (R-Rota) on whether the CNMI Department of Labor has deported anybody since the federal takeover of local immigration.

Members of the Senate and House of Representatives held a meeting with Labor and other administration officials to discuss two omnibus immigration bills yesterday afternoon on Capital Hill.

Kaipat said passage of the proposed Immigration Conformity Act of 2010 takes into account the impact of U.S. Public Law 110-229 or the federalization law, on the CNMI, including possible pre-emption of CNMI law by federal actions.

"Time and time again, the 300 some people were given the opportunity to clear their status but they didn't come forward. They know who they are. We will be referring their names to ICE soon," Kaipat told *Saipan Tribune* right after the meeting with lawmakers.

She said many of the overstayers have been in the CNMI for years without legal status. She, however, said Labor could not release the names yet.

ICE is one of the component agencies of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

"This does not yet include those with umbrella permits revoked. Some 200 is what we have so far," she told lawmakers.

Kaipat, as well as lawmakers, said ICE should have procedures that will clarify when CNMI employers are relieved of their obligations to foreign workers who are subject to ICE deportation.

"We need to put pressure on DHS to step up deportation of people referred to them [by Labor]," she said.

Rota Labor resident director Richard Taisacan, who was also at the meeting, said ICE does not have a system in place to speed up the process of deportation.

On Rota alone, he said, there are 10 individuals considered deportable but the CNMI could not deport them because it lost its authority to do so to the federal government.

### 'Reckless'

During the meeting, Kaipat said U.S. Labor Ombudsman Pamela Brown is not only creating confusion but has also been "acting recklessly."

Brown, who met with foreign workers on Thursday, said CNMI Labor lost the authority to revoke umbrella permits issued to alien workers and those with immediate relative status on Nov. 28, 2009, when the federalization law took effect.

"Employment of aliens is now a matter of federal law," Brown told the crowd at the American Memorial Park's amphitheater Thursday night.

"Pam Brown is acting recklessly and irresponsibly in urging people to ignore established laws. People are relying on her and are therefore jeopardizing their status. Her statements are really uncalled for," Kaipat told lawmakers.

Brown could not be reached for comment yesterday.

Manglona instructed Senate legal counsel Antonette Villagomez to invite Brown to yesterday's meeting. Villagomez said Brown was off island and could not attend the meeting.

"I want to caution workers not to jeopardize their status because Pam Brown is not DHS and she's not a federal judge," Kaipat added.

Rep. Tony Sablan (R-Saipan), a former immigration director, echoed Kaipat's concerns about Brown's statement made to the public on the issue of umbrella permits and the authority of CNMI Labor.

### AG clarification

Attorney General Edward T. Buckingham separately clarified that the CNMI Department of Labor has the authority to revoke umbrella permits, reacting to Brown's statement that seems to suggest that an umbrella permit cannot be revoked.

He said the CNMI retains authority through the Department of Labor for the management of umbrella permits.

"Specifically, the Department of Labor has both the authority and the duty to monitor compliance with umbrella permit holders. Should one or more conditions of the umbrella permit not be met, the umbrella permit is subject to being revoked," Buckingham said.

Buckingham said if holders of umbrella permits believe they no longer need to comply with Labor standards, they may face revocation of the permit.

"This may affect their status in the Commonwealth and may lead to deportation proceedings. The Commonwealth and the Department of Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement have different roles to play. But, as a whole, we are part of the same government," he said.

### 'Unfortunate consequences'

The attorney general said the federal government assumed control over entry and exit into the CNMI, but did not replace the CNMI Department of Labor for its activities.

"To take the position that someone could stop complying with requirements of the CNMI Department of Labor could mean that a person would be without employment. Such people would be a drain on the economy and present a risk of involvement in criminal activities or, because of not having employment, risk becoming victims of unscrupulous people taking advantage of their problems," Buckingham said.

He said ignoring conditions set by the Department of Labor is, in his view, "unwise" and may subject the holder of an umbrella permit to "unfortunate consequences."

"An umbrella permit can be revoked. Legal status can be lost. And, through coordination between the CNMI and Immigration and Customs Enforcement, an individual may be subject to deportation," he added.

### Omnibus bills

Members of the Senate Committee on Resources, Economic Development and Programs, as well as other lawmakers, discussed yesterday with Departments of Labor and Commerce officials two omnibus immigration bills.

The 73-page House Bill 17-25, introduced by Rep. Rafael Demapan (Cov-Saipan), seeks to amend certain sections of the Commonwealth Code dealing with immigration functions. It is also called the "Immigration Conformity Act of 2010."

The second, still unnumbered, Senate bill runs only 17 pages and is also called the "Immigration Conformity Act of 2010."

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce, the largest business organization in the CNMI, is now also reviewing the bills, which may move quickly in the Legislature.

# Up to $25M bank loan eyed to develop Rota's eastern harbor

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Rota Mayor Melchor A. Mendiola has asked Gov. Benigno R. Fitial for support in improving and expanding Rota's seaport using a possible loan of up to $25 million from the Rhode Island-based Independence Bank.

Mendiola told Fitial that the loan would be repaid from future revenue activity of the port facility and future funding from Section 702 of the Covenant funding.

Press secretary Angel Demapan said yesterday that he has yet to discuss the issue with the governor, who just got back yesterday from Washington, D.C. to attend the National Governors Association meeting and to meet with federal officials on a host of CNMI issues.

Mendiola sent the letter at the height of the food shortage on Rota because Saipan Shipping Co. Inc.'s only available vessel could not enter the island's port due to rough waters since before Christmas.

The previous shipment of goods to Rota was on Dec. 21, 2009, and the sea vessel wasn't able to enter Rota's main seaport until Feb. 14. Rota ran out of basic goods such as rice and frozen meat products from Christmas time to Valentine's Day.

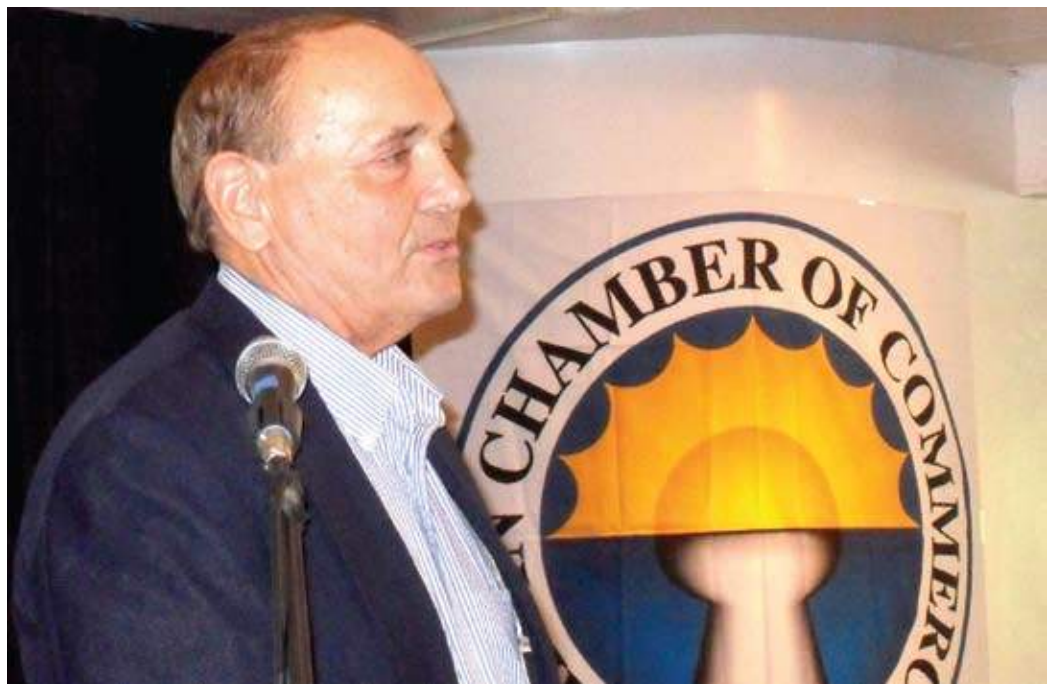
Mendiola said his letter seeks the governor's support in realizing Rota's desire to improve and expand the seaport facility "to enable cargo vessels to service Rota on a regular basis."

The mayor said cargo vessels could not provide service to Rota even during normal weather conditions due to the design of the existing port facility.

He said an alternative plan is being looked at to develop the eastern harbor, which he said is the "more ideal solution."

"Our economic development is stagnant without the improvement of the seaport facility. It is very crucial to the economic development of Rota especially in light of the upcoming buildup of the casino industry and the U.S. military activity that Rota can gain from this new tourism industry," Mendiola told Fitial.

Mendiola and his Cabinet members met with Independence Bank business development director Michael C. Sammartino on Jan. 23, 2010, along with members of the Rota Casino Gaming Commission, Senate President Paul A. Manglona (R-Rota), Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee chair Sen. Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota), Rota Legislative Delegation chair Sen. Juan M. Ayuyu (Ind-Rota), and other community members.




**GUEST SPEAKER**
Dr. John Griffin, the recently appointed chairman of the Northern Marianas College's Business Department, addresses members and guests of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce during the business organization's monthly meeting last Wednesday. Griffin served as an NMC instructor and department chairperson, initially on Rota and later on Saipan from 2000 to 2006.
HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

# Lease agreements for Saipan's 1st ship disposal program approved

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Ports Authority approved two lease agreements yesterday for the island's first ship disposal program.

Board members unanimously approved Worldwide Salvage Saipan, LLC's lease of about 78,000 square feet of CPA's dock area for a monthly fee of $2,000.

The company didn't waste time, with the initial payment endorsed by the company's vice president for administration, David C. Sablan, soon after the signing of the documents.

Besides the temporary lease agreement for the dock, the board also approved the company's five-year lease agreement for a warehouse within the port for $1,013 monthly. This agreement is subject to renewal every five years.

Sablan said the approval is a major development for the company's proposed business because the permits were the two most important items it needed to submit to the Maritime Administration, an agency within the U.S. Department of Transportation, to secure a permanent contract.

Sablan disclosed that once operational, program investment is estimated at $16 million.

"It's a major development as far as we're concerned because those two leases are the two very important items that we need to submit to MARAD and which are pending in our contract that has been technically approved," he told *Saipan Tribune*, adding that these agreements would trigger the completion of MARAD's review of the program. MARAD representatives are expected to inspect the dock facility to find out if it is feasible for the ship disposal program.

Sablan said the company will comply with all federal and local environment laws.

"The ship disposal program is one of the most regulated industries because it involves land, sea, and water. So we're making every effort to comply with every law," he assured the board.

Once it secures the MARAD contract and is issued permits by all regulatory agencies, Worldwide Salvage will begin buying "dead ships" from the national defense reserve fleets. The company targets to bring 40- to 50-year-olds ships from the mainland to be dismantled here and then have the dismantled parts and all the toxic materials shipped out. The company said it projects to run the program from 12 to 15 years and will involve the hiring of 250 people.

Because the agreement is "non-exclusive" use of the dock area, the company will stop and remove its operations upon the scheduled arrival of a fuel delivery, freighter, passenger cruise, or military vessels.

CPA executive director Edward Deleon Guerrero said yesterday that, with the tight financial state of the agency, any lease payment will help boost revenue. CPA recently authorized an across-the-board eight-hour work hour cut starting next month.

March Madness Specials
The BEST deal on the COOLEST Phones
Motorola W385
$50.00*
[ CDMA • Camera Phone ]
Motorola Adventure
$150.00*
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Motorola RAZR
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Motorola V8
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3G/EVDO Island wide in the CNMI, & Guam
Superior Wireless Network on 4 Islands
Offer valid March 9th thru March 27th
*Some conditions apply • 300 min More Plan or up • 1 year agreement • Single Plans only • New Accounts only
While supplies last • GSM phones not offered in Tinian and Rota
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Saipan: 682-4ITE (4483) • Tinian: 433-0210 • Rota: 532-3599 • Guam: 671-922-4ITE (4483) • www.ite.net

# Ways and Means urges passage of austerity bill today

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

House Ways and Means Committee chair Rep. Ramon S. Basa (Cov-Saipan) said yesterday that if all 12 members of his committee vote "yes" on his austerity bill, then it will easily pass the 20-member House during its session today.

Basa's 12-member committee has nine Covenants and independents, and three Republicans. It is the committee with the most number of members.

Standing Committee Report 17-2 recommends House passage of Basa's House Bill 17-22, HD1, which calls for the closures of government offices once every pay day and during all remaining legal holidays in Fiscal Year 2010.

This means an eight-hour reduction in government work hours per pay period, from 80 to 72. This will be further reduced to 64 work hours per pay period if there is a legal holiday.

The committee said with 15 austerity holidays beginning on March 5, 2010 and ending on Sept. 6, 2010, the government will net a projected savings of approximately $4.2 million for FY 2010.

However, March 5 already passed, so the projected savings as of today will be reduced to $3.92 million.

Each payroll costs the government $280,000, the committee said.

Basa introduced the bill on Feb. 5, and it was referred to the Ways and Means Committee for disposition.

In the 16th Legislature, former Rep. Victor Hocog introduced H.B. 16-223, proposing to implement austerity Fridays and unpaid legal holidays.

The bill was referred to the Ways and Means Committee, which recommended that it would be better left to the full membership of the House for discussion and action.

A similar legislation was introduced during the 15th Legislature by former Sen. Joseph M. Mendiola which became Public Law 15-24 that implemented the austerity Fridays for the CNMI government for FY 2007.

Due to the severity of the government's financial problems, including a revised FY 2010 projected revenue of $137 million, from $150 million last year, Basa's austerity bill does not exempt the Public School System and the Northern Marianas College from the work hour reduction and unpaid legal holidays.

It, however, grants authority to the PSS commissioner and NMC president to extend the school year to ensure that public schools meet federally determined education mandates.

The bill exempts only those in "immediate health and safety positions" such as doctors, nurses and police officers.

Those with constitutionally protected salaries such as governor, lieutenant governor, lawmakers, judges and justices are "encouraged" to waive 10 percent of their salaries, which is equivalent to eight hours per pay period.

Basa's bill, however, gives the governor the authority to provide specific exemptions involving federal programs, contracts and grants. The exemption is to be made only if it "prejudices continued receipt of federal monies."

Furthermore, except for "emergency positions," all hiring will be frozen during the duration of the austerity bill, to include filling vacant positions not included under an "emergency positions" exception.

**OMNIBUS IMMIGRATION BILLS**

Members of the Senate Committee on Resources, Economic Development and Programs, as well as other lawmakers, meet with officials of the Departments of Labor and Commerce on two omnibus immigration bills in the Senate chamber on Capital Hill yesterday afternoon. The 73-page House Bill 17-25 or the "Immigration Conformity Act of 2010," and a still unnumbered Senate bill, both seek to repeal and amend certain sections of the Commonwealth Code dealing with immigration functions.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

# 6.0 magnitude earthquake hits CNMI

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A 6.0 magnitude earthquake jolted the CNMI at 7:47 last night, based on information from the U.S. Geological Survey's National Earthquake Information Center. No tsunami advisory was issued as a result of the quake.

The Monday night quake occurred near the CNMI's northern island of Agrihan and Maug at a depth of 277.5 miles. The epicenter was located at 19.342 degrees north and 144.728 degrees east.

A check with the CNMI Emergency Management Office around 8pm said the quake had a magnitude of 5.0.

USGS estimated the quake epicenter's distance at 75 miles west-northwest of Agrihan, 85 miles south of Farallon de Pajaros, 290 miles north-northwest of Saipan, and 405 miles north of Hagatna in Guam.

On Feb. 28, a tsunami warning was hoisted in the CNMI in the wake of an 8.8 magnitude quake in Chile, resulting in a brief evacuation of residents from low-lying areas on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

Acting Gov. Eloy S. Inos issued the tsunami warning at 9am on Feb. 28 and ordered the evacuation, but cancelled it at 10:30am that day.

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY**
**CNMI GOVERNMENT**
**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**
**RFP10-DOC-026**

**CLOSING DATE: WEDNESDAY, MARCH 31, 2010 • TIME: 10:30 A.M.**

**"GUMA HUSTISIA AIR CONDITIONING RETROFIT"**

COPIES OF THE PROPOSAL CAN BE OBTAINED AT THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE - CNMI ARRA OFFICE, 1ST FLOOR CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

A MANDATORY PRE-PROPOSAL WALKTHROUGH WILL BE CONDUCTED AT THE GUMA HUSTISIA ON THURSDAY, MARCH 18TH, 2010 BEGINNING AT 9:00AM.

THIS IS AN AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT OF 2009 PROJECT AND AS SUCH ALL MATERIALS PURCHASED MUST BE MANUFACTURED IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE, BECAUSE IT IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW.

/s/ MICHAEL ADA, Secretary of Commerce
/s/ MARTIN C. SABLAN, Acting Secretary of DPW
/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN, Director, P&S

**Procurement And Supply**
**CNMI Government**
**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL**

**RFP10: CDD-065**
Submission: March 31, 2010 • Time: 2:00 P.M.

**"PRIVATIZATION OF CALL-A-RIDE PROGRAM"**

The RFP package may be obtained at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply in Lower Base, Saipan during regular working hours.

**Any questions or inquiries for clarification** is due no later than the close of business, **March 19, 2010**, and should be directed to **Ms. Pamela C. Sablan, Executive Director at (670) 664-7000 or e-mailed to psablan.cnmicdd@gmail.com.**

**This is a federally funded project; as such, local preference is not available, because its use is prohibited by federal law granting funding for this project.**

**/s/ PAMELA C. SABLAN**, Executive Director, CDD
**/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN**, Director, P&S

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY**
**CNMI GOVERNMENT**
**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**
**RFP10-DOC-027**

**CLOSING DATE: WEDNESDAY, MARCH 31, 2010 • TIME: 10:30 A.M.**

**"SENATE CHAMBER AIR CONDITIONING RETROFIT"**

COPIES OF THE PROPOSAL CAN BE OBTAINED AT THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE - CNMI ARRA OFFICE, 1ST FLOOR CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

A MANDATORY PRE-PROPOSAL WALKTHROUGH WILL BE CONDUCTED AT THE HONORABLE JESUS P. MAFNAS MEMORIAL BUILDING ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17TH, 2010 BEGINNING AT 1:30PM.

THIS IS AN AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT OF 2009 PROJECT AND AS SUCH ALL MATERIALS PURCHASED MUST BE MANUFACTURED IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE, BECAUSE IT IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW.

/s/ MICHAEL ADA, Secretary of Commerce
/s/ MARTIN C. SABLAN, Acting Secretary of DPW
/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN, Director, P&S

**Procurement And Supply**
**CNMI Government**
**INVITATION TO BID**

**ITB NO.: ITB10-DPS-062**
Submission/Opening Date: March 18, 2010 • Time: 10:00 a.m.

**"PURCHASE OF TWO (2) POLICE PACKAGE MOTORCYCLES FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY-SAIPAN"**

Copies of the specifications may be picked up at the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base Dr., Saipan, during regular working hours.

This is a Federally funded project; as such, **local preference is not available**, because its use is prohibited by Federal Law granting funding for this project.

**/s/ SANTIAGO F. TUDELA**, Commissioner of Public Safety
**/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN**, Director, P&S

**BOARD OF PAROLE**
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

**PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT**

This is to inform the General Public that the Board of Parole has rescheduled the **TIME** of the Parole & Revocation Hearing for March 10, 2010, at the Vicente Taman Seman Building, Department of Corrections Briefing/Training Room from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. The agenda remains as is.

If you have any question or concerns, please do not hesitate to call the Board of Parole Office at telephone numbers 664-3300 or 3303. We apologize for the inconvenience this may have caused.

/s/ Ramon B. Camacho
Chairman of the Board

**Procurement And Supply**
**CNMI Government**
**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**

**RFP: RFP10-DPL-064**
Submission: March 23, 2010 • Time: 2:00 P.M.

**"OFFICE SPACE RENTAL ON SAIPAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS"**

Copies of the specifications may be obtained at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply in Lower Base during regular working hours.

**Questions regarding this RFP** must be submitted in writing to Mr. Oscar M. Babauta, Acting Secretary, Department of Public Lands by fax to (670) 234-3755, **no later than march 12, 2010, close of business**.

**Preference is available to U.S. citizens or permanent residents as per Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118 and must be submitted with the proposal if preference is claimed.**

**The lessor must comply with Public Law 15-23, Article 5, section 8652 (A) – (D)**

**/s/ OSCAR M. BABAUTA**, Acting Secretary of DPL
**/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN**, Director, P&S

**Procurement And Supply**
**CNMI Government**
**INVITATION TO BID**

**ITB NO.: ITB10-DPS-063**
Submission/Opening Date: March 18, 2010 • Time: 10:30 a.m.

**"PURCHASE OF ONE (1) DUI MOBILE TRAILER FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY–TINIAN POLICE TRAFFIC SECTION"**

Copies of the specifications may be picked up at the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base Dr., Saipan, during regular working hours.

This is a Federally funded project; as such, **local preference is not available**, because its use is prohibited by Federal Law granting funding for this project.

**/s/ SANTIAGO F. TUDELA**, Commissioner of Public Safety
**/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN**, Director, P&S

# Merrill Lynch contract with Fund: $150K per annum

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Stung by criticisms about excessive fees collected by the Retirement Fund's investment consultant, the Fund on Friday disclosed that the Merrill Lynch is making about $150,000 per year for its service to the agency.

The amount is on par with the figure stated in its contract, which provides for a payment equivalent to 3 ½ basis points—or 3.5 percent of every 1 percent—of the total Fund investments.

Fund administrator Mark A. Aguon said that Merrill Lynch was last hired in 2008 when the Fund's investment was around $300 million. For the last two years, the company collected $300,000 from the Fund for its services.

He said the highest service payment paid to Merrill Lynch was probably in 2007 when investments reached $400 million.

The Fund's investment was at $70 million in 1998. As of Dec. 31, 2009, it was at $335 million.

However, Aguon pointed out that the percentage used in calculating Merrill Lynch's service fee is the $300 million base because not all $335 million investments are being serviced by the consulting firm.

Aguon said the company has proposed an increase in its service fee from 3 ½ basis points to 5 basis points—or 5 percent of 1 percent. This translates to about $180,000 annually.

"They [Merrill Lynch] did mention [the increase], which is why we pushed to do an RFP [request for proposal]," Aguon told *Saipan Tribune.*

The RFP for a new investment consultant opened last month and ended last week.

Aguon confirmed that six companies have submitted proposals, two of them from Guam. Merrill Lynch, he said, was also among the six who turned in a new proposal.

Aguon said that Merrill Lynch's retention would depend on the new proposal it submitted.

"Because this is not a simple RFP, it would take us a while to review them. But we're hoping to get it done in a couple of weeks," he said.

Aguon admitted being satisfied with the performance of the investment consultant.

"This is an investment consultant and it's not managing money for us. They consult with our asset allocation. I may have some issues with Merrill Lynch, but overall I am satisfied with their service," he said.

Aguon described the RFP as a "periodic announcement" to comply with procurement regulations.

*Saipan Tribune* learned that the contract with Merrill Lynch has no expiration date but it allows the Fund to review the contract every two years.

Members of the Commonwealth Retirees Association earlier urged the Fund to run after Merrill Lynch and join its case against the company. The plaintiffs in the case claim that Merrill Lynch overcharged the Fund and provided bad advice to the trustees, resulting in millions of investment losses.

Fund board chair Sixto Igisomar on Friday said the board cannot comment on this issue because of the ongoing litigation.

During last month's three-day money managers' meeting, Merrill Lynch reported positive investment earnings in the 22 years of the program—from the initial $18.5 million in March 1987 to a little over $335 million as of December 2009.

# Bridge Capital gives $1K to IFC, challenges others to follow suit

Bridge Capital LLC recently donated $1,000 to the Independent Football Club of Koblerville and promises to donate more to the association.

Bridge Capital principal and CEO John K. Baldwin dared other companies to do the same, saying his company will make an additional matching donation of up to a total of $1,000 for donations received from the general business community.

"Bridge Capital is a strong supporter of the development of youth sports on the island and believes these type of activities are a key to developing teamwork, promoting physical activity and good health, and fostering community spirit and a sense of pride in CNMI's youth," said the company in a statement issued yesterday.

IFC has earmarked the donations to pay for registration and equipment costs for the upcoming 2010 NMIFA Youth Football seasons.

"Most of the kids that join our club cannot afford the shoes, shin guards, socks, and registration fees; this is why we approached Bridge Capital about sponsorship. This donation will help pay for two seasons of soccer for at least 40 children from the south side of the island," said IFC president Glenn Smith.

Bridge Capital, LLC is an international investment banking and asset management company located in the CNMI.

The company is involved in a wide range of community activities and makes significant contributions to non-profits and charitable organizations serving the islands. Bridge Capital is committed to being a good corporate citizen and a partner in making the CNMI the best it can be. ***(PR)***

# *Fund sees $43M budget shortfall next fiscal year*

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The NMI Retirement Fund expects a $43 million shortfall in its budget next fiscal year due to projected expenditures amounting to $78 million in the 12-month period, according to Fund administrator Mark A. Aguon.

In his report to the board of trustees during a meeting Friday, Aguon said the Fund expects to collect only $34.5 million in revenues next fiscal year.

However, a positive market in FY 2011 and possible increases in other Fund revenues may still lessen the projected shortfall, he said.

When asked where the Fund will get the money to cover the anticipated shortfall, Aguon said it would depend on which market is performing well. "It depends on what the market shows. If the market is good for the equities or fixed income, then we will probably take it from there…" he said.

Saipan Tribune learned that big bulk of the $78 million expenditures include $55 million for pension benefits while some portions are allocated for disability benefits, survivors' benefits, refunds, and operation.

To date, Fund membership totals 6,584, with more than half—or 3,651—being active employees who are still contributing into the retirement plan.

The rest are those receiving retirement benefits and claims, totaling to 2,933 recipients: retirees, 2,144; surviving spouses, 517; surviving children, 182; disability pension recipients, 90.

Aguon added that projected personnel cost for FY 2011 is $900,000 while utility expenses are set between $16,000 and $20,000 monthly.

Of the $34.5 million projected revenue, Aguon said a big bulk will come from employer contributions, employee contributions, tax revenues, and from local investments.

The Fund's total investment portfolio is currently valued at $335 million. The Fund said the amount would have been higher if not for the withdrawals made in previous years. Last fiscal year, it recorded $43 million withdrawals from its investments, mostly to pay for the pension of retirees.

This fiscal year, the board approved a maximum withdrawal of $55 million in anticipation of more individuals retiring.

**Commonwealth Utilities Corporation**

**INVITATION FOR BIDS**
**COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION**
**CUC-IFB-10-016**

**GROUND MAINTENANCE SERVICES FOR CUC POWER GENERATION FACILITIES. SAIPAN**

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting sealed bids from firms capable of providing Ground Maintenance Services for CUC Power Generation facilities in Saipan.

**A mandatory pre-bid and site visit meeting is scheduled for Friday, February 19, 2010 at 1O:OO AM (CHST)** local time at the Power Generation Conference Room, Lower Base, Saipan, to ensure that the contractors are fully aware of the work involved and familiarize with the site conditions. All proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the proposers due to lack of information or understanding of the site conditions in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid or performance of work under the contract.

The Scope-of-Work may be pick-ed up at CUC, Procurement & Supply Office at Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, 3rd Floor, Room No.4 between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on Government observed holidays.

One (1) original and five (5) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"IFB-10-016 GROUND MAINTENANCE SERVICES FOR POWER GENERATION FACILITIES. SAIPAN"** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than Wednesday, March 10, 2010 at 10:OO AM (CHST) local time**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

- Contract will be awarded for a (1) One Year Term, upon issuance of Notice to Proceed.
- Selected firm must provide its company's latest BGRT/Withholding Tax information.
- Selected firm must provide copies of valid work permits for each employee to be assigned at CUC.
- Selected firm and all subcontractors must provide documents as proof that the firm is covering its employees under the Workman's Compensation program and is paying its employees pay wage rates not less than the current Federal minimum wage, prevailing through the period of the contract, as indicated in the web page http://www.dol.gov/esa/minwage/cnmi/cnmi.htm. The selected firm will also be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.
- Quotation for said services shall be valid for 60 days from date of submittal.
- This Scope of Work shall become "Exhibit A" of the Ground Maintenance Contract.

All inquiries must be submitted no later than Monday, March 1, 2010, 10:OO AM. in writing to Manuel B. Sablan, Purchasing Officer, via email to msablan@cucgov.net and Almondo Santos, Power Generation Manager at pwrgen@cucgov.net.

Selection procedure shall be in full compliance with CUC Procurement Regulations. CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the interest of the government. All Bids shall become the property of CUC.

/s/TIMOTHY M. CONNOR
Legal Counsel

/s/ABE UTU MALAE
Assistant Executive Director for Operation

/s/ANTONIO S. MUNA
Executive Director

**Commonwealth Utilities Corporation**

**INVITATION FOR BIDS**
**CUC-IFB-10-022**

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting sealed bids from qualified individuals or firms for the urgent supply 3-PHASE TRANSFORMERS.

Emergency generator sets will be used to power the island of Rota, while CUC takes down existing generator sets for major engine overhaul and rehabilitation. All existing engines already overdue for overhauls and the power situation on Rota is very critical.

A site visit and pre-bid meeting is not planned, but bidders who wish to visit Rota power plant will be permitted with prior approval. All proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on part of the proposers due to a lack of information or understanding of the plant site conditions in the course of the Contractor's preparation of a bid or performance of work under the contract.

The Scope-of-Work and Bid package will be **e-mailed** upon request, to all interested bidders, by the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, during working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.), Monday thru Friday, except government observed holidays, **until Wednesday, March 31, 2010.**

One (1) original and five (5) copies must be submitted in a seal envelope marked **"IFB 10-022 "ROTA 3-PHASE TRANSFORMERS"** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, Room No. 4, 3rd Floor Joeten Dandan, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan MP 96950, no later than **Thursday, April 08, 2010 at 10:00 AM**, local time, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

Local Bidders (CNMI based business) will be required to submit a copy of a CNMI Business License upon notice of award of contract. Off-island Bidders (Non-CNMI based business) are excluded from the requirement of submitting a copy of a CNMI Business license upon notice of award of contract.

With respect to bidders' employment of labor as an element of a bid, the Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less that the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page — http://www.dol.gov/esa/minwage/cnmi/cnmi.htm. The contractor will also be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

Selection procedure shall be in full compliance with CUC Procurement Regulations. CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and wave any imperfection in the bid proposal in the interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

All inquires must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM local time on **Monday, April 05, 2010** to Mr. Manuel B. Sablan, Jr., Purchasing Officer via email at msablan@cucgov.net and Mr. Wallon Young. Deputy Director Power System Rehabilitation via email at wallon59@yahoo.com.

**/s/ ABE UTU MALAE**
Acting Executive Director

# Military Family Caucus urges DoD chief: Restore education funding for spouses

**WASHINGTON, DC**—In response to an abrupt suspension of the Military Spouse Career Advancement Account program, U.S. Rep. Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) and other members of the Congressional Military Family Caucus have asked Defense Secretary Robert Gates to restore it. Congress provided for the program in the National Defense Authorization Act last year.

Unofficially referred to as Spouse Tuition Assistance, it makes available up to $6,000 of aid to military spouses who are pursuing degree programs, licenses, or credentials leading to employment in high-demand, high-growth, and portable careers they can pursue wherever the military may send their families.

"Over 130,000 military spouses are receiving this education help," said Sablan. "I understand that those who are approved will continue to receive payment. But in my view suspending the program and creating this uncertainty is not the way to support those who sacrifice so much to make our military what it is today."

**ON THE NET**

facebook.com/militaryfamilycaucus

Those eligible include spouses of active duty service members, of activated members of the National Guard and Reserve Components, and of those severely injured, wounded, killed in action, prisoners of war, or missing in action.

The Military Family Caucus has heard from many military spouses who are directly impacted by this program termination. They worry there may be a delay in the completion of their degrees—possibly without the opportunity to finish once they are relocated. Many military spouses have planned their careers and lives around the assumption that this program would continue without interruption.

"We are seeking your help to better understand the basis for this 'pause,' how long the 'pause' will be in effect, and the impact it will have on spouses," wrote the Military Family Caucus to Gates. "While military spouses often would like to follow a traditional education path, their lifestyles prevent them from doing so. Many access online courses as opposed to enrolling in semester long 'in-person' courses to better suit their family needs. The MyCAA provides the critical support that these military spouses need to succeed in school and in their careers. The sudden abatement of this program has significantly impacted an overwhelming number of families, preventing them from moving forward with their lives. The Department of Defense has yet to provide any detailed information as to when this program will resume."

MyCAA Financial Assistance pays for education and training programs, tuition, and licensing/credentialing fees. This includes degree programs (e.g. associates, bachelors, masters, doctoral and post doctoral), continuing education classes (including those offered through professional associations), Bar, CPA and other similar exams, and state certifications for teachers, medical professionals and other licensed occupations.

Sablan was one of the first members of the Caucus. For more information see facebook.com/militaryfamilycaucus. ***(PR)***

# Can you identify

THE NMI Council for the Humanities, in collaboration with the *Saipan Tribune*, is running a series of photographs in this section every Tuesday and is inviting the public to identify the persons or places featured in this section.

If you can identify the persons or places in the picture, please contact the NMI Council for the Humanities by telephone (235-4785), via email (photo@nmihumanities.org) or by visiting the Council's office located in Springs Plaza, Gualo Rai. These images are from the Council's Historic Photograph Database which is currently being developed to help document the history and cultures of the CNMI.

The person featured in last week's photo have been identified as Ignacia Manibusan San Nicolas. She was identified by John San Nicolas, Lourdes Hocog, Mary Indalecio, Chong Torres, Mako Torres and Esther San Nicolas.

# Local history lectures set for Thursday

The NMI Council for the Humanities is inviting the public to attend two lectures on local history to be held at the Visitors Center Theater of the American Memorial Park on Thursday, March 11, beginning at 6pm.

Visiting history professor Dr. Hermann Hiery will present a lecture titled "Micronesians and Germans: Old Ties, New Perspectives" during which he will explore German colonial policies in the Mariana Islands from 1899 to 1914. He will focus particular attention on District Officer Georg Fritz and his relationship with the Ada family.

Hiery

The second lecture, titled "The Japanese Occupation of Micronesia during World War I," will be given by Yuko Maezawa and will cover Japan's initial seizure of the Micronesian islands from Germany at the beginning of World War I.

Maezawa will also describe the conflicts that arose between the Japanese military and civilian authorities concerning how these newly-acquired islands were to be administered.

Both lectures draw on historical documents held in German and Japanese archives, including recently discovered records that provide a new perspective on initial Japanese colonial rule of Micronesia.

Hiery is chairman of the Department of Modern History at the University of Bayreuth in Germany. He has authored a number of papers and books on Germany's colonial activities in the Pacific during the early decades of the 20th century.

Maezawa is a PhD student in history at the University of Bayreuth.

This program is a part of the council's ongoing Community Lecture Series that provides public presentations on a variety of humanities-related topics.

Interested individuals are invited to contact council staff at 235-4785 or visit the council's Web site at www.nmihumanities.org. ***(PR)***

# Tax return forms out tomorrow

The Division of Revenue and Taxation said the 2009 Individual Income Tax Return forms and instructions are ready for distribution beginning tomorrow, March 10, from 7:30am to 4:30pm, at the office of the Division of Revenue and Taxation at the Joeten Dandan commercial center.

These forms and instructions will be available on the Department of Finance Web site at www.cnmidof.net.

For tax year 2009 making work pay credit is available for eligible taxpayers. All eligible taxpayer must complete Schedule M, making work pay and government Retiree Credits and attach it to Form 1040A-CM or 1040-CM. Taxpayers filing 1040-EZ must complete the worksheet on Form 1040-EZ. For more information on making work credit, go to www.cnmidof.net.

The division is also reminding all CNMI residents that the deadline for tax filing of the 2009 Individual Income Tax Return is April 15, 2010, at the division office. The office will remain open until 9:30pm on April 15 to receive tax returns. ***(PR)***

# Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

## March 9, 1999

### Senator: Investor bond won't work

Due to failure to provide a safety net despite the bonding requirement, the Senate appears bent on revamping a pending legislation seeking to ease the $100,000 security deposit for foreign investments in a bid to tighten some provisions on the proposal. Sen. Juan P. Tenorio, chair of the Senate committee on Economic Resources, Development and Program Committee which is deliberating on the House measure, said he will eliminate the bonding requirement as provided under the proposed bill. "Bonding just doesn't work here. We have had problems with the bonding requirement in the past," he told in an interview. "They are not able to pay their obligations" when companies are bankrupt.

### Enron seeks in-depth review of bids

A company closely competing for the new power plant on Saipan has called for a comprehensive reevaluation of all proposals submitted for the $120 million project, including the "best and final offers" handed in during the initial review conducted last year by the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation. David Howe, vice president of Enron International, urged CUC to allow a private engineering firm tasked to independently review the bids to undertake a "thorough analysis of the process, from start to finish." Burns & McDonnell, a Kansas-based firm, is currently reevaluating all 13 proposals and a preliminary report was scheduled to be presented to the CUC board yesterday.

## March 9, 2000

### Garment exports down by $67-M in third quarter

In what appears to be an indication of another round of economic uncertainties in the CNMI, garment exports from Saipan to the mainland U.S. dropped by nearly $70 million during the period covering July-September 1999 compared with the previous year level. Government records showed that Saipan garment factories exported $263 million worth of apparel products in the third quarter of 1999, down from $329.6 million during the same period of the previous year. However, a closer look at the total amount of apparel exports from the Northern Marianas during the first three quarters of 1999 revealed that the figures remain higher than the $250 million quarterly average in 1998.

### Mandarin Air to begin Taipei-Saipan service in April

Mandarin Airlines, a subsidiary of China Airlines, will begin providing Taipei-Saipan direct service twice a week next month after signing an agreement with Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino to ferry visitors regularly from Taiwan. The airline will be using a B737-800 which can accommodate 158 passengers. According to Alfred Yue, Director for Casino Operations, the initial flight has been tentatively set on April 17. It will leave Taipei at around 8:00 a.m. "Unfortunately, the plane cannot land in Tinian due to technical problems. The executives who checked on the airport said the runway is short," Mr. Yue said.

## March 9, 2001

### NMC's 4-yr program in education OK'd

CNMI's lone postsecondary institution has just become a new haven for Education majors. This came following a decision by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges Accrediting Commission to accord the Northern Marianas College license to offer a four-year degree program in Education. The WASC Accrediting Commission for Senior Colleges and Universities hailed NMC's efforts in applying for the unique accreditation status, being the first junior college in the Pacific to brave the Pilot Joint Accreditation Program. The evaluation was accomplished under a written Memorandum of Understanding between the institution, the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges and the ASCC.

### Consortium takes protest on 80MW power plant to court

A consortium of firms vying for the 80-megawatt power plant project is seeking judicial review on a Commonwealth Utilities Corporation decision that granted the highly sought-after project to Enron International Mariana Power Inc. Tomen Power, Singapore Power, Alsons and Tan Holdings Corporation filed before the Superior Court a complaint for judicial review of agency action alleging that CUC's move to throw out the consortium's June 9, 2000 protest was arbitrary, capricious, and an abuse of discretion.

# Red Cross NMI Chapter readies for 24th Annual Walkathon

By WALTER J. SUTHERLAND
REPORTER

The American Red Cross NMI Chapter is gearing up for its 24th Annual Walkathon on Saturday, March 27, with about 2,000 participants expected to show up at the 6am kickoff.

The 10K walkathon, one of the major grassroots events promoted by the NMI Red Cross chapter, begins at the 4-H Building in Susupe and goes along the Beach Road pathway to the Garapan Fishing Basin and back.

Thirty-one public and private schools will be participating, along with many other clubs and organizations.

Besides the walkathon, the NMI chapter will also host a health fair that will offer free blood pressure checkups, blood sugar tests, and H1N1 vaccinations. Games for the kids will also be on hand including a jump house, ring toss, face painting booth, and petting zoo. A DPS fire truck will be on location and a cooking demonstration will also be offered by the Northern Marianas College – Cooperative Research Extension and Education Service.

Individuals who donate or raise $15 will receive a T-shirt, pocket first-aid kit, and free refreshments. All walkers will receive a free sandwich and drink provided by Coke, Subway, and Foremost. Participants also have a chance to win prizes such as laptop computers (4), cell phones, phone cards, waterpark passes, sports equipment, eye exams, McDonald's certificates, and more.

All walkers who raise $75 will win a Samsung – A650 flip phone and a $10 phone card (charger and battery included). The top four student walkers with the largest donations will win a black Lenovo IdeaPad S10 4333-36U Netbook equipped with 1GB memory, a 10.1" monitor, and Windows XP software.

Additionally, other prizes will be given away to businesses and groups/clubs categories.

Donors include Coke, Subway, Foremost, Scoops, Glimpses, and other local businesses.

Those who would like to participate in the walkathon or just sign up to volunteer with the Red Cross may call the chapter office at (670) 234-3459 or visit the Web site at www.nmi.redcross.org.

"What the chapter is always in need of are people who are willing to donate their time, no mater how small. The power of the organization is in the strength of its volunteers," said John Hirsh, executive director of the NMI Red Cross chapter. The Red Cross is very flexible to accommodate those who wish to participate even if they can only give as little as one day a month.

Acting Gov. Eloy S. Inos proclaimed March as American Red Cross Month at the beginning of this month.

Two Coast Guard Response Boats tow a disabled sailing vessel back to Sumay Cove Marina.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

## USCG has busy weekend of search and rescue

**PITI, Guam**—This weekend was a busy one for the U.S. Coast Guard Station Apra Harbor and USCGC *Assateague*, with two lives saved and 12 lives assisted in three search and rescue missions around the island of Guam.

Guam Fire Rescue was also involved in one of the cases, in which they saved thousands of dollars of property by towing a disabled boat more than 10 miles back to safety.

Seaman Boatswain's Mate Cody Schaffner was involved in the first two SAR cases this weekend. He described rescuing a boat near Cocos Island as challenging because the boaters did not know their exact position. Over the radio, the Coasties directed them to light off a flare. Once the Coast guard crew spotted the flare, they were able to assist the boat.

That same evening, SNBM Cody Schaffner and his crew were called out to another case: a sailing vessel with eight people on board had a disabled engine and could not get proper wind to navigate back to their berthing area in Sumay Cove.

"That case required a lot of teamwork," said Schaffner, the lead coxswain on the case. "My response boat towed the sail boat, and Machinery Technician First Class Todd Genereux navigated his response boat kind of like a tug to help guide the sail boat into place. Everyone did a really good job coordinating," Schaffner said.

The final case of the weekend involved a 28ft power vessel about 10 nautical miles north of Guam. Guam Fire Rescue was on scene and executed the challenging tow, while CGC *Assateague* stood ready to assist in case the situation deteriorated.

When boating, it is always important to take safety precautions. Ensure that you have good flotation devices, flares, and at least two working forms of communication (such as radios and cell phones as backup). For more boating safety advice, visit http://www.uscgboating.org/. For maritime emergencies, call the Coast Guard 24 hours a day at (671) 564-USCG or 911. ***(USCG)***

**ON THE NET**
http://www.uscgboating.org/

**FOR MARITIME EMERGENCIES**
U.S. Coast Guard: (671) 564-USCG or 911

**ADOPTED BEACH** CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan has joined the Division of Environmental Quality's "Adopt a Beach Program" by adopting Makaka Beach, which runs from the Fiesta beachfront down to the back of ABC Store in Garapan. Fiesta has committed to maintaining a beautiful and clean marine environment for the island community. The company's first beach cleanup was held on Feb. 27 and will be scheduled every last Saturday of each month. "Please join us with this commitment by placing your trash in trash receptacles only. If trash receptacles are not provided, take your refuse with you," the company said in a statement.

## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

### NMC Alumni Association mixer on March 11

The Northern Marianas College Alumni Association will be hosting a mixer meeting at the Seaside Bar & Grill at the Pacific Islands Club on Thursday, March 11, 2010, from 5pm to 7pm. All NMC alumni (those who have earned 24 or more credits) are encouraged to attend, as many topics will be discussed, such as the upcoming NMC Alumni Membership Card. The card program is expected to entail savings at various establishments in the CNMI. Prizes will also be distributed! For more information contact Jack Kiyoshi at 234-5498 ext.1022 or email jackk@nmcnet.edu. ***(PR)***

### Zoning Board execs on Marianas Agupa

Marianas Agupa, a Chamorro talk show program hosted by Glenn H. Manglona, will feature Herminia Fusco, chairperson of the Zoning Board, and Henry Hofschenider, member of the board, this Saturday, March 13, 2010, from 10am to 11am on Magic 100.3 FM. The two will discuss the zoning law, regulation and its ramification as it applies to businesses on Saipan. Simultaneous Internet streaming via www.magic100radio.com will be available. For more information, e-mail marianasagupa@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

### MHS Open House set

To all parents and legal guardians of Marianas High School students: Marianas High School will be hosting its third Open House on Wednesday, March 10, 2010 from 4pm to 6pm. Students will be released at 1pm on that day to allow the school time to prepare for the event. During the open house, progress reports will be distributed for 3rd quarter grades. We invite all parents / legal guardians to visit your student's classrooms, meet the teachers, and pick up your student's progress reports. ***(PR)***


**OFFICE OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION**
322-6537/8 (Voice) 322-6449 (TTY) 322-6536 Fax
PO Box 501521 Saipan, MP 96950 website: www.ovrgov.net

**ANNOUNCEMENT**

The Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) in partnership with the State Rehabilitation Council (SRC) and the Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC), will be conducting statewide public forums for Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Services and State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL). You must come!

**SAIPAN**
March 10, 2010
Multi-Purpose Center
5:30-7:30pm

**TINIAN**
March 16, 2010
Fleming Hotel Lanai
5:30-7:30pm

**ROTA**
March 23, 2010
Bay View Hotel Lanai
5:30-7:30pm

**REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION:** If you require reasonable accommodation (e.g., large print, sign language interpreter) to participate in the public forums, please contact the OVR Council Liaison Magin Iginoef at least 3 days before the scheduled forums. Copies of the plans can be obtained and accessed at www.ovrgov.net and at Navy Hill Bldg N2.

Publication of this notice is paid for by Federal Funds from the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitation Services.

# Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

## Get the vaccines

In 1998, the British medical journal *The Lancet* published an article claiming that there may be a link between the MMR vaccine—measles, mumps and rubella—and the development of autism in children.

The story got plenty of press, touched off a raging debate about the safety of vaccines, and scared many parents away from inoculating their kids.

There was just one problem. Researchers hadn't actually proved a link between the vaccine and autism. They were pushing a theory, one that lead researcher Andrew Wakefield was paid nearly half a million pounds to pursue. He was paid by lawyers who were trying to prove that the MMR vaccine caused autism.

Earlier this month, *Lancet* editors issued a startling statement: "We fully retract this paper from the published record." It was a humbling admission. It came too late.

The article, combined with many anecdotal cases, scared people. No one can help but be rattled by the accounts of vibrant, lively toddlers who, within days or weeks of receiving a vaccine, retreated from human contact and showed other signs of autism. Many parents decided that the dangers of vaccines far outweighed the risks. And that created some significant health risks.

Measles was once prevalent, and killed one out of every 500 children who got it. Measles was virtually eradicated in the developed world, thanks to vaccines, but it has been making an alarming comeback. In 1998, there were just 56 confirmed cases of measles in England and Wales. In 2008, there were 1,348 cases there and two children died.

MMR immunization rates in Britain dropped from 92 percent shortly before *The Lancet* article was published to 79 percent in 2003. In some parts of London, the rate fell to 50 percent.

That poses a danger to the unvaccinated kids and even to some kids who got the vaccine. Vaccines don't activate immunity in every patient who receives them. As long as 95 percent of kids in a group are vaccinated, the others are protected by a "herd immunity." The virus, for lack of enough hosts, won't survive long enough to be transmitted.

In Illinois, 98 percent of schoolchildren were immunized in 2008-09, according to the State Board of Education. But immunization rates were below 90 percent in three public school districts and 28 private schools. "If you've got clusters, it just takes one person getting (a disease like measles)," Dr. James Singleton, an immunization expert from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, told us. "If there's a group of exempted kids that are going to school and aren't immunized and exposed to that, you'll get these localized outbreaks."

When parents avoid immunizing their children, there is a greater risk of losing that herd immunity.

A dozen epidemiological studies have not found a link between the MMR vaccine and autism. But the fear of a link remains. And some parents complain that kids receive too many vaccines. In 1960, young children were routinely vaccinated against five diseases: diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, polio and smallpox. The CDC now recommends vaccination by age 2 against 13 diseases.

The vaccines, though, have become safer. They require far fewer antigens—the molecules of bacteria or virus used to cause a reaction from the immune system. One example: the pertussis vaccine once used 3,000 antigens. Now it uses five. That decreases the likelihood and severity of side effects.

Some parents report seeing the onset of autism soon after their child received some standard vaccines. But that doesn't mean vaccines cause autism. It is often diagnosed around the age of 2,

*See GET on Page 11*

## Our politics of anger: Americans are experts in dissatisfaction

**By GREGORY RODRIGUEZ**
*Los Angeles Times*

*Gregory Rodriguez is a columnist for the* Los Angeles Times. *Readers may send him e-mail at grodriguez@latimescolumnists.com.*

I used to think it was odd that anger was the operating principle of politics in America, a country that elevates the "pursuit of happiness" to a self-evident right. But then I realized it's happiness itself—the ill-defined, carrot-on-a-stick nature of it—that makes us so mad. If our collective goal weren't so lofty (and vague), and if we didn't believe we were entitled to our heart's desire, maybe we could calm down, leave well enough alone and count our blessings.

But that's not how we roll. We leave actual contentment with what is, and God forbid, satisfaction with what we have accomplished, to others—like, say, the bon vivant French. In America, it's all about trajectory—not where we're at but where we'll get to next. In fact, whether we admit it or not, we citizen strivers need anger—maybe especially political anger—to keep all this momentum going. Satisfaction might lull us into passivity; dissatisfaction can move us to act. A quick check of most comment boards supports this: You hear mostly from the ticked off.

This is one reason so much of political activity on all sides is about leveraging, even stoking, our displeasure. Appealing to fury isn't a bad way to get large numbers of people to move in your direction. This is not necessarily a bad thing. Anger can move you to fix whatever's wrong with the state of things. Combined with a redemptive message, it has the possibility of achieving remarkable, positive change. Martin Luther King Jr. spoke of the process of turning anger into a "transforming force." Even momentary outrage can move legislators to pass necessary laws and change less-than-ideal conditions.

> *'In a democracy, anger gives people a greater sense of control over their fate and spurs them to action, however ill considered. The anger ethos, then, dovetails well with our can-doism and the belief that individuals have control over their own destinies.'*

But anger also tends to encourage us to place blame and responsibility for our troubles on others. It can bolster an unhealthy sense of entitlement. What is true for individuals can be true for the collective: Anger uncontrolled can overwhelm us and ultimately make our lives a whole lot worse.

There's no way to prove it, but it seems that American politics is angrier than ever. (You may not agree if you eschew talk radio and cable-TV yammering.) But the increase in partisanship, which surely feeds anger, is provable and explainable: The disappearing cross-party vote in Sacramento or in Washington is a recent phenomenon that can be charted.

Still, it's important to remember that bile and intolerance is nothing new to our political scene. Throughout U.S. history—in speeches, tracts and sermons—political players have spewed plenty of horrendous things about their opponents. In the 1790s, for instance, one French visitor to the U.S. found "the violence of opinion" downright "disgraceful."

You might want to blame our divisive political rhetoric on anxiety and uncertain times, but it wouldn't be fair. Studies have shown that anxiety and anger have two very distinct effects on political behavior. Anxiety is a response to a perceived threat over which a person feels little control. In contrast, anger arises as a response to a negative event that a person feels gets in the way of his goals. Anxiety leads people to overestimate risk and do nothing; anger tends to lower one's sense of perceived threat and leads to heightened risk-taking.

In other words, in a democracy, anger gives people a greater sense of control over their fate and spurs them to action, however ill considered. The anger ethos, then, dovetails well with our can-doism and the belief that individuals have control over their own destinies.

My fear is that the 24/7 media feedback loop is changing our anger calculus. Like porn on the Web, political anger is becoming a compulsion. The Joe Stacks of the world—the ones who are mad as hell and about to fly a plane into an IRS office—could always find compatriots, but now they can congregate instantly, on a fan page on Facebook, for instance. It's all become too easy, accessible and, in some cases, merely an end in itself.

I'm not concerned that this indulgent anger will produce thousands of Joe Stacks; he was an extreme case. My real worry is that the garden-variety version of this anger will be so virulent and inescapable that it will so alienate other, cooler citizens that they will give up on politics altogether.

I mean, if you're not frothing at the mouth, what are your choices? I see only two: Either leave politics to the furious ones, or get so angry about the state of affairs that you have no choice but to fight back.

**EDITORIAL POLICY** The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

# Grounds of inadmissibility

**IMMIGRATION FORUM**

**By MAYA KARA and BRUCE MAILMAN**
Special to the Saipan Tribune

*Maya Kara is a native of Hungary and comes to the practice of law by way of her interest in Asian history. Bruce Mailman is a native of Bakersfield, California and was a private investigator in California prior to becoming a lawyer. Both have lived and practiced law in the CNMI for over 20 years, Maya in government service and Bruce in private practice. They are married and are partners in the law firm of Mailman & Kara, LLC in Garapan, Saipan.*

People who come to us to obtain family-based green cards have to meet two basic conditions: (1) they must have a qualifying relationship with a U.S. citizen ("USC") (spouse, parent, adult child or sibling) or lawful permanent resident ("LPR") (spouse or parent) and (2) they must have the requisite minimum income or equivalent, or have a joint sponsor. Most people, if they meet these conditions, will go through the application process and will adjust their status to become LPRs without undue difficulty.

However, all persons seeking legal admission to the United States must be "admissible," that is, they must possess no personal history or condition that would constitute a ground of inadmissibility. This is a fundamental qualification that applies to all immigrants and to all non-immigrants. Immigrants, i.e., those seeking to become LPRs, are screened very carefully with respect to grounds of inadmissibility. Although there may be waivers available for certain grounds of inadmissibility; they are more liberally available to non-immigrants than to immigrants.

The two most common grounds of inadmissibility that we encounter in our practice are criminal history and prior periods of overstay in the United States.

## CRIMINAL HISTORY

Your petition to adjust status may be denied on the basis of prior criminal conduct. The conduct will be examined based on the following general standards. Please keep in mind that every case is different, every case is adjudicated individually, and there are aggravating or mitigating factors in every situation. The list below is for some of the most common grounds of inadmissibility only; a complete list of possible grounds of inadmissibility is beyond the scope of today's column.

**a. Criminal conduct:** A person is deemed inadmissible to the United States if he or she has committed of a crime of "moral turpitude." The crime is deemed to have been committed if the person has been convicted for the crime in any U.S. or foreign court. It is also deemed to have been committed if the person has admitted to committing such a crime or has admitted to committing the essential elements of such a crime.

**b. Crime of moral turpitude (CMT):** There is a large body of case law dealing with what conduct constitutes a crime of moral turpitude. There are exhaustive lists in manuals that assist USCIS officers and State Department officials in evaluating and adjudicating such questions. But fitting a general definition to any specific fact pattern is still elusive. Generally speaking, CMT is judged on the mental state of the person committing the crime. If the nature of the crime is morally repugnant (e.g. sexual crimes against children, fraud and other betrayals of trust), then we can be fairly certain that it will be deemed a CMT. Crimes that do not carry a heavy moral judgment, such as simple assault, will, in all likelihood, not be deemed CMTs. Crimes involving fraud or theft have uniformly been held to involve moral turpitude. But decisions in different places and different times are vary widely; the decisions are highly individualized.

**c. Multiple convictions:** Multiple convictions, regardless of the nature of the crime, will constitute a ground of inadmissibility, if the aggregate sentences actually imposed were five years or more. Unlike the CMT standard, a suspended sentence is not deemed a sentence actually imposed. Sentences running concurrently are not accumulated.

**d. Drug offenses:** Drug related offenses, no matter how minor, or where they occurred, are the most difficult to overcome. The INA is very broad in its prohibition of drug related conduct. In one particularly egregious case, a person who admitted to smoking marijuana during a visa related psychiatric examination, was deemed to have violated the Philippine controlled substances law and was therefore excluded. No conviction is required; a simple admission will do, no matter what the excuse. In fact, a person may be excluded if a consular officer has reason to believe that a person has engaged in drug trafficking. "Reason to believe" requires more than a suspicion; there must exist a probability, supported by evidence that the person was involved in drug trafficking. Nevertheless, this is a much more flexible standard than the "conviction" or admission required for other crimes.

**e. Petty offense exception**: A crime under this provision may be excused if the maximum possible penalty does not exceed one year in prison and the actual sentence imposed does not exceed six months. An actual sentence imposed includes any suspended time.

**f. Juvenile exception:** A crime under this provision may be excused if it was a single crime committed by the person while under the age of 18 as long as the person was released more than five years prior to applying for adjustment of status.

**g. Political crimes exception:** Many immigrants come to the United States from politically repressive regimes. In these countries, persons are routinely prosecuted, convicted and imprisoned for conduct that, in the United States, would be a simple exercise of a constitutional right (e.g. freedom of speech, freedom of association). Crimes of this nature, if deemed purely political crimes, are not a ground of inadmissibility.

**h. Waivers:** Waivers may be available for crimes of moral turpitude and multiple convictions, regardless of the crime, on a showing of extreme hardship to the USC or LPR sponsor. A waiver for drug related crimes is limited to a one time possession of marijuana of less than 30 grams. This waiver is available only upon a showing extreme hardship to the USC relative sponsor. A waiver is available to persons who are inadmissible on the basis of having engaged in prostitution or for activities that occurred 15 years a prior to the date of admissions as long as the admission would not be adverse to the national interest and the person has been rehabilitated. There is a special waiver application form, which must be supported by documentation and, in most cases, a formal letter or legal brief.

## UNLAWFUL PRESENCE

Your petition to adjust status may also be denied because of prior unlawful presence. We have had a number of clients whose status was perfectly legal in the CNMI and who qualified for permanent resident status, but they had overstayed prior visas either in the United States or Guam. To these people, we had to give the bad news that the law requires them to remain outside the United States for a specific period of time before they can apply. The following are the general rules.

**a. Overstay of less than six months:** If you overstayed your visa in the mainland U.S. or in Guam for less than 180 days and were not deported or in deportation proceedings, there is no inadmissibility penalty. You may apply for adjustment of status as long as you are otherwise qualified.

**b. Overstay of more than six months but less than one year:** If you overstayed your visa in the mainland U.S. or in Guam for more than 180 days but less than one year, and were not deported or in deportation proceedings, you must stay outside the United States for a period of three years after your voluntary departure. You cannot seek admission or petition for adjustment of status until three years have passed.

**c. Overstay of one year or more:** If you overstayed your visa in the mainland U.S. or in Guam for more than one year, and were not deported or in deportation proceedings, you will need to stay outside the United States for a period of ten years after your voluntary departure. You cannot seek admission or petition for adjustment of status until ten years have passed.

**d. Presence in the CNMI:** There is a peculiar twist to this rule with respect to the CNMI: presence in the CNMI prior to November 28, 2009 counts as presence outside the U.S. for purposes of waiting out the penalty based on prior unlawful presence; presence in the CNMI after November 28, 2009, does not count as presence outside the U.S. So, even if you are legally present in the CNMI, but you are waiting for your three or ten year penalty to pass, your time after November 28 will not count. You will need to return to your home country, or another foreign country, to wait out the period of the peenalty before you are eligible for admission or adjustment of status to the United States.

**e. Significant exceptions (not a complete list):**

- A period of unlawful presence prior to April 1, 1997 is not counted;
- Any period of unlawful presence under the age of 18 is not counted;
- A period of time while a person had a bone fide asylum application pending is not counted, unless the person engaged in unlawful employment;
- The bars do not apply to battered women or children.

This is a very broad overview of one part of a very complex area of U.S. immigration law. If you are qualified for any U.S. visa—immigrant or nonimmigrant—but think that you may be inadmissible for any reason, you should consult an attorney. As we keep saying, don't listen to rumors.

*The information contained in this column is intended as general information only, and not as individual legal advice. Readers should obtain professional legal advice before taking action with respect to their individual situations. Readers may submit questions regarding federalization or immigration issues to the authors by email to lexmarianas@pticom.com. Readers may also e-mail written questions through the Saipan Tribune at editor@saipantribune.com.*

# Letters to the Editor

## Bulls in a pen

Over the course of a week's time, I have found the exchange between Mr. Ambrose Bennett and Mr. John DelRosario Jr. very interesting. What happened? You two seem to be fighting over what is supposed to be educational for the public. Instead, you two were nothing but bulls in the pen fighting over the red target, which is Article XII.

There ought to be a better way to educate the public about Article XII other than the way you two were going at it. If you were fighting in a battle using pens as machine guns, you will have murdered the real essence and ended up with nothing to educate the public except to wait for who wins the fight.

Mr. Bennet, stop trying to dictate to the people about what they ought to do and just stick to educating the public about the actual things written in the Covenant in relation to Article XII, and you, Mr. DelRosario, stop speaking as if you are speaking on behalf of the entire indigenous decent because there are a lot of us too that are against Article XII.

We have to address the issue of Article XII in the most peaceful and amiable manner, weighing the pros and cons of the subject. This is very important since some people want to live in the philosophy of the Trust Territory times, and some also want to live practically in the philosophy of co-existing with other people of other nationalities in our peaceful island setting. So to Mr. Bennett and Mr. DelRosario Jr., please show a good example of character to our children. Article XII is really not just about how you view things, but it is actually about how everyone does! *En fin serafin*.

**Alexandro "The Colonel" Sablan**
*Dandan, Saipan*

## Why not Rota?

Rota is also an integral part of the Marianas ever since the beginning of time and was also an active contributor to the success of World War II. Rota was definitely more fortunate to be able to withstand the havoc and devastation created by the war (unlike Guam, Saipan, and Tinian).

It is fitting to have the Marianas Trench Memorial located on Rota for many reasons, one of which is the fact that Tinian, Saipan, and Guam are decorated with numerous memorials. Another reason that comes to mind is the fact that there is serene beauty and tranquility flourishing on the island of Rota. It is as if the island has been left untouched.

**Joaquin Q. Atalig**
*Rota, CNMI*

## GET

*From Page 10*

which is when kids are scheduled for some routine vaccinations.

It's understandable that some parents have focused on vaccines as the cause of their child's autism. It is a mysterious disorder. Scientists don't know what causes it. But if more parents refuse to vaccinate their kids, it is more likely that some nearly forgotten diseases will enjoy a renaissance.

As for the scientific community, we hope even more effort is poured into discovering the cause and treatments for all of the autism spectrum disorders.

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Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

# The Weather

## 5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

| TODAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph. | Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph. | Partly cloudy with isolated showers. | Partly cloudy with isolated showers. | Partly cloudy with isolated showers. |
| ▲85° ▼75° | ▲85° ▼76° | ▲86° ▼76° | ▲86° ▼75° | ▲86° ▼76° |

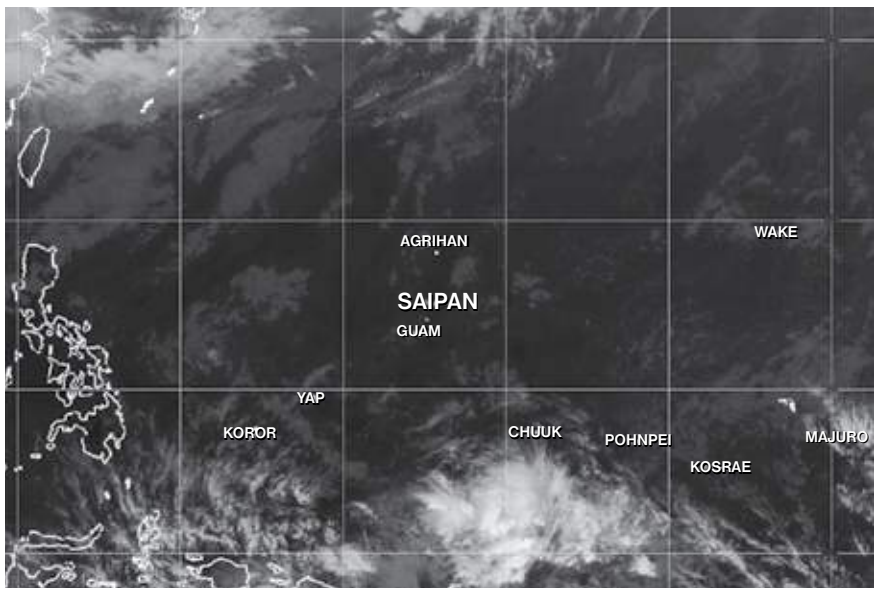
## Micronesia

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Guam and Rota | Partly Sunny | ▲84 | ▼74 |
| Palau | Cloudy | ▲88 | ▼76 |
| Yap | Partly Sunny | ▲87 | ▼76 |
| Chuuk | Partly Sunny | ▲89 | ▼79 |
| Pohnpei | Showers | ▲85 | ▼75 |
| Kosrae | Showers | ▲88 | ▼74 |
| Majuro | Showers | ▲86 | ▼77 |

## Around The Globe

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Auckland | Moatly Cloudy | ▲72 | ▼63 |
| Beijing | Partly Sunny | ▲28 | ▼14 |
| Hong Kong | Rain | ▲64 | ▼61 |
| Honolulu | Showers | ▲77 | ▼71 |
| London | Showers | ▲46 | ▼34 |
| Los Angeles | Cloudy | ▲64 | ▼46 |
| Manila | Mostly Cloudy | ▲91 | ▼74 |
| Melbourne | Showers | ▲66 | ▼57 |
| Miami | Cloudy | ▲78 | ▼65 |
| New York | Mostly Sunny | ▲53 | ▼37 |
| Osaka | Rain | ▲46 | ▼38 |
| Paris | Mostly Sunny | ▲39 | ▼25 |
| Pusan | Showers | ▲47 | ▼37 |
| Rome | Rain | ▲50 | ▼35 |
| Salem | Mostly Cloudy | ▲49 | ▼36 |
| San Francisco | Mostly Sunny | ▲56 | ▼45 |
| Seoul | Rain/Snow | ▲45 | ▼32 |
| Tokyo | Showers | ▲46 | ▼43 |
| Washington, DC | Mostly Sunny | ▲58 | ▼44 |

## Yesterday's Satellite Image




**PICTURE TIME: 1:00AM, MONDAY, MARCH 8, 2010**
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Converging southwest winds near Okinawa are producing scattered showers within 90 miles of a line from 17N131E to 25N136E. A surface trough stretches northwestward from EQ145E to 15N133E. Scattered showers are found near the northern branch of the trough or north of Koror and Yap within 115 miles of a line from 10N132E to 17N139E. Another surface trough runs northwestward from EQ172E to 13N163E. Widely scattered to scattered showers are occurring near the trough axis over Kwajalein and Majuro between 7N and 14N from 162E to 175E. Trade-wind convergence near the equator is generating scattered showers well south of Chuuk and Pohnpei within 70 miles of a line from 1N147E to 3N151E to 1N158E.

## Tides

**Saipan Harbor**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 4:44 AM | Today | High Tide: | 1.5 Feet |
| 9:04 AM | Today | Low Tide: | 1.3 Feet |
| 1:33 PM | Today | High Tide: | 1.6 Feet |
| 9:47 PM | Today | Low Tide: | 0.1 Feet |

## Sunrise/Sunset

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Today | 6:29 AM | 6:26 PM |
| Wednesday | 6:29 AM | 6:26 PM |
| Thursday | 6:28 AM | 6:26 PM |
| Friday | 6:27 AM | 6:27 PM |
| Saturday | 6:27 AM | 6:27 PM |

## Moonrise/Moonset

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Today | 1:38 AM | 1:03 PM |
| Wednesday | 2:27 AM | 1:55 PM |
| Thursday | 3:11 AM | 2:46 PM |
| Friday | 3:52 AM | 3:35 PM |
| Saturday | 4:30 AM | 4:23 PM |

## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 6, 2010

### DEPARTURES

**SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| C09597 | 11:30am | 12:05pm | 1, 7 |

**ROTA (ROP)-GUAM**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| C09597 | 12:40pm | 1:10pm | 1, 7 |

**SAIPAN-GUAM**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| C09317 | 4:25am | 5:15am | Daily |
| C09313 | 8:30am | 9:20am | Daily |
| C09597 | 11:30am | 1:10pm | 1, 7 via ROP |
| C09601 | 12:20pm | 1:10pm | 4, 5 |
| C09603 | 3:15pm | 4:05pm | Daily |
| C09605 | 6:20pm | 7:10pm | Daily |
| C09599 | 9:20pm | 10:10pm | Daily |

**SAIPAN-NAGOYA (NGO)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| DL638 | 8:00am | 10:55am | Daily |

**SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| DL287 | 5:50am | 8:40am | Daily |
| DL638/288 | 8:00am | 1:40pm | 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via NGO |
| DL297 | 4:35pm | 7:30pm | Daily |
| DL289 | 4:50pm | 7:45pm | Daily |

**SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| OZ608 | 3:20am | 6:50am | 1, 5 |

**SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| OZ604 | 2:10am | 6:00am | 1 |
| OZ604 | 2:40am | 6:30am | 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 |
| OZ119 | 4:00am | 11:25am | Daily via Osaka |
| | | Arrive OSA 6:40am, leave OSA 9:30am | |
| OZ606 | 3:20pm | 7:00pm | 2, 4, 6, 7 |

**SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| FM844 | 2:50am | 5:40am | 2, 6 |

**SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| CZ3008 | 3:30am | 6:40am | 2, 6 |

**SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| OZ604/701 | 2:10am | 11:50am | 1 via ICN |
| OZ604/701 | 2:40am | 11:50am | 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN |
| OZ608/705 | 3:20am | 1:30am+1 | 1, 4, 5, 7 via PUS |
| C09603/893 | 3:15pm | 9:10pm | 3, 5 via GUM-PALAU |
| OZ606/703 | 3:20pm | 10:55pm | 2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN |
| C09605/933 | 6:20pm | 9:40pm | Daily via GUM |
| C09599/PR111 | 9:20pm | 7:50am+1 | 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM |

**SAIPAN-HONG KONG**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| OZ604/721 | 2:10am | 12:00pm | 1 via ICN |
| OZ604/721 | 2:40am | 12:00pm | 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN |
| OZ606/749 | 3:20pm | 11:00pm | 4, 6, 7 via ICN |

### ARRIVALS

**ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| C09598 | 3:10am | 3:45am | 5, 6 |
| C09312 | 1:20pm | 1:55pm | 6 |

**GUAM-ROTA (ROP)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| C09598 | 2:00am | 2:30am | 5, 6 |
| C09312 | 12:10pm | 12:40pm | 6 |

**GUAM-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| C09316 | 2:00am | 2:50am | 1, 2, 3, 4, 7 |
| C09598 | 2:00am | 3:45am | 5, 6 via ROP |
| C09596 | 7:00am | 7:50am | Daily |
| C09600 | 10:05am | 10:55am | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 |
| C09312 | 12:10pm | 1:55pm | 6 via ROP |
| C09602 | 1:50pm | 2:40pm | 1, 4, 5, 7 |
| C09604 | 4:50pm | 5:40pm | Daily |
| C09606 | 8:00pm | 8:50pm | Daily |

**NAGOYA (NGO)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| DL641 | 9:05pm | 1:35am+1 | Daily |

**NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| DL290 | 10:00am | 2:30pm | Daily |
| DL298 | 10:15am | 2:45pm | Daily |
| DL287/641 | 5:50pm | 1:35am+1 | 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via NGO |
| DL288 | 9:00pm | 1:40am+1 | Daily |

**BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| OZ607 | 9:00pm | 2:10am+1 | 4, 7 |

**SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| OZ605 | 9:00am | 2:20pm | 2, 4, 6, 7 |
| OZ120 | 7:10pm | 2:20am+1 | Daily via Osaka |
| | | Arrive OSA 8:50pm, leave OSA 9:50pm | |
| OZ603 | 7:40pm | 1:10am+1 | 7 |
| OZ603 | 8:10pm | 1:30am+1 | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 |

**SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| FM843 | 7:15pm | 1:50am+1 | 1, 5 |

**GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| CZ3007 | 7:30pm | 2:40am+1 | 1, 5 |

**MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| OZ706/607 | 3:35am | 2:10am+1 | 3, 4, 6, 7 via PUS |
| OZ702/603 | 1:10pm | 1:10am+1 | 7 via ICN |
| OZ702/603 | 1:10pm | 1:30am+1 | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN |
| PR110/C09596 | 10:10pm | 7:50am+1 | 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM |
| C0892/9596 | 10:10pm | 7:50am+1 | 3,5 via PALAU-GUM |
| C0934/9596 | 11:10pm | 7:50am+1 | Daily via GUM |
| OZ704/605 | 11:55pm | 2:20pm+1 | 1, 3, 5, 6 via ICN |

**HONG KONG-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| OZ724/605 | 12:30am | 2:20pm | 2 ,4 ,6, 7 via ICN |
| OZ750/605 | 1:00am | 2:20pm | 2, 4 ,6 ,7 via ICN |
| OZ722/603 | 1:30pm | 1:10am+1 | 7 via ICN |
| OZ722/603 | 1:30pm | 1:30am+1 | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN |

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

## FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

| Airline | ETD | ETA | Frequency |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Guam-Rota** | | | |
| FRE 100 | 7:00am | 7:30am | Daily |
| **Rota-Saipan** | | | |
| FRE 100 | 7:50am | 8:20am | Daily |
| **Saipan-Rota** | | | |
| FRE 200 | 9:00am | 9:30am | Daily |
| **Rota-Guam** | | | |
| FRE 200 | 9:50am | 10:15am | Daily |
| **Guam-Rota** | | | |
| FRE 300 | 4:00pm | 4:30pm | Daily |
| **Rota-Saipan** | | | |
| FRE 300 | 4:50pm | 5:25pm | Daily |
| **Saipan-Rota** | | | |
| FRE 400 | 6:00pm | 6:30pm | Daily |
| **Rota-Guam** | | | |
| FRE 400 | 6:45pm | 7:15pm | Daily |
| **Saipan-Tinian** | | | |
| FRE 101 | 6:45am | 6:55am | Daily |
| FRE 103 | 7:30am | 7:40am | Daily |
| FRE 105 | 8:00am | 8:10am | Daily |
| FRE 107 | 8:40am | 8:50am | Daily |
| FRE 109* | 9:10am | 9:20am | Daily |
| FRE 111* | 10:45am | 10:55am | Daily |

| Airline | ETD | ETA | Frequency |
|---|---|---|---|
| FRE 113 | 11:40am | 11:50am | Daily |
| FRE 115 | 1:00pm | 1:10pm | Daily |
| FRE 117 | 2:30pm | 2:40pm | Daily |
| FRE 119 | 4:00pm | 4:10pm | Daily |
| FRE 121 | 4:40pm | 4:50pm | Daily |
| FRE 123 * | 5:40pm | 5:50pm | Daily |
| FRE 125 * | 6:00pm | 6:10pm | Daily |
| **Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**** | | | |
| FRE 102 | 7:05am | 7:15am | Daily |
| FRE 104 | 7:50am | 8:00am | Daily |
| FRE 106** | 8:20am | 8:30am | Daily |
| FRE 108** | 9:00am | 9:10am | Daily |
| FRE 110 | 10:00am | 10:10am | Daily |
| FRE 112 | 11:05am | 11:15am | Daily |
| FRE 114 | 12:00pm | 12:10pm | Daily |
| FRE 116 | 1:30pm | 1:40pm | Daily |
| FRE 118 | 2:50pm | 3:00pm | Daily |
| FRE 120** | 4:20pm | 4:30pm | Daily |
| FRE 122** | 5:00pm | 5:10pm | Daily |
| FRE 124 | 6:05pm | 6:15pm | Daily |
| FRE 126 | 6:20pm | 6:30pm | Daily |

## GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

**REQUIREMENTS**

**For pictures:**

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

**For announcements:**

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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# Business

AP

In this Tuesday, Feb. 16, 2010 photo William Holley of Holley Enterprises Inc. poses for a photograph at in Philadelphia. Holley was subcontracted by James J. Anderson Construction to perform demolition and salvage operations on a subway station repair project in Philadelphia.

## Less stimulus for minority firms

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—Hispanic and black businesses are receiving a disproportionately small number of federal stimulus contracts, creating a rising chorus of demands for the Obama administration to be more inclusive and more closely track who receives government-financed work.

Latinos and blacks have faced obstacles to winning government contracts long before the stimulus. They own 6.8 and 5.2 percent of all businesses, respectively, according to census figures. Yet Latino-owned business have received only 1.7 percent of $46 billion in federal stimulus contracts recorded in U.S. government data, and black-owned businesses have received just 1.1 percent.

That pot of money is just a small fraction of the $862 billion economic stimulus law. Billions more have been given to states, which have used the money to award contracts of their own.

Although states record minority status when they award contracts to businesses, there is no central, consistent or public compilation of that data, according to Laura Barrett, director of the Transportation Equity Network. She and other minority advocates are calling for complete and publicly accessible demographic information on all contracts and jobs financed by the stimulus.

Minority businesses are often too small to compete for projects; do not have access to the necessary capital, equipment or bonding requirements; or lose bids to companies with well-established relationships. There also has been an emphasis on spending stimulus money quickly, which favors businesses that have won past contracts.

**STIMULUS WATCH**

But minority advocates say that blacks and Latinos have been harder hit by the recession, and getting a fair share of stimulus contracts is key to the recovery of these communities. Unemployment among blacks and Hispanics is much higher than among whites. And although unemployment among whites increased at a faster rate during the worst of the recession than among minorities, rates of those considered underemployed—including people who have given up looking for full-time work or people working part-time because there is no full-time work available—increased faster among minorities than whites.

Figures from the Transportation Department on highway stimulus spending—at the heart of the government's effort to lift the economy—have further concerned advocacy groups.

Six percent of the $16.9 billion in Federal Highway Administration contract money spent by states has gone to disadvantaged business enterprises, which includes companies owned by minorities as well as women, veterans and the disabled, according to department press secretary Olivia Alair.

Out of $1.1 billion in state-spent Federal Aviation Administration contract money, 7.8 percent has gone to disadvantaged businesses, Alair said, and 8.6 percent of direct Transportation Department contract dollars have gone to those companies.

## China faces new pressure to let currency rise

**BEIJING** (AP)—China faces mounting pressure from trading partners to loosen currency controls and is giving signs it might raise the value of the yuan to ease strains on its fast-growing economy.

A stronger yuan could help China's leaders achieve their goal of making the economy more self-sustaining by boosting consumer buying power and reducing dependence on exports and investment. It could narrow China's politically volatile trade surplus, making the flood of foreign money pouring into the economy more manageable.

A change might also help defuse tensions with the United States, Europe and other trading partners that complain an undervalued yuan makes China's exports unfairly cheap and hurts foreign competitors, possibly prolonging the global economic crisis. Some American lawmakers are calling for punitive tariffs on Chinese goods if Beijing fails to act.

AP

In this Jan. 6, 2010 file photo, a bank clerk counts U.S. dollars and RMB yuan notes for a customer at a bank in Hefei, in central China's Anhui province.

Analysts say Beijing might allow the yuan to rise against the dollar before the middle of this year. But they say any increase will be gradual and do little to narrow U.S. and European trade deficits and create jobs.

"Even if China starts to appreciate, the possibility is it will be very slow and gradual, without an immediate impact on trade," said Nicholas Consonery, an analyst in Washington for Eurasia Group, a consulting firm.

On Friday, Premier Wen Jiabao said in a speech to China's legislature that the yuan will be kept "basically stable" at an "appropriate and balanced" level this year, though he gave no explanation of what that would mean.

## Toyota moves past apologies, aims for sales

**NEW YORK** (AP)—New ads for troubled automaker Toyota Motor Corp. are skipping the apologies and easing back into sales pitches—too soon, some say.

The campaign pushes the idea that Toyota customers remain loyal, even as the company faces congressional inquiries and some reports that its repairs may not fix the problem.

The new campaign, by Toyota's main ad agency Saatchi & Saatchi, emphasizes what Toyota says are real satisfied buyers testifying that they still feel safe in their new Toyotas even after weeks of revelations about accelerator problems.

"And our own personal experience? These cars that we've had have been exceptionally safe," baby boomer Mark Murphy says in one ad. The ad says he and his wife, Donna, bought Corolla and a Sienna on Feb. 20.

The new campaign, which started March 2 and is scheduled to run through April 5, does one thing right, marketing experts say: Troubled brands have to play to their strengths by wooing loyal fans. But some say skipping past the apologies could make Toyota look like it's mocking safety concerns that are still very real.

Ford Motor Co., for example, laid low on heavy sales pitches for its Ford Explorer for months in 2000 after Bridgestone tires used on the SUVs caused blowouts that led to more than 250 traffic deaths.

People need time to digest bad news, so companies shouldn't try to start selling too soon, said Mike Sheldon, CEO of ad agency Deutsch LA.

"We haven't had that chance to just get through the problem and they're already trying to sell me stuff? I believe that consumers will feel a little confused, like, 'Aren't you still fixing the problem? Why are you trying to sell me so hard?' he said.

Saatchi & Saatchi referred requests for comment on the campaign to Toyota. The automaker's spokespeople didn't respond to requests for comment.

## Sarkozy to 'speculators': Lay off Greece

**PARIS** (AP)—Speculators beware: The euro zone's biggest powers will back Greece through the debt crisis that has jeopardized all 16 nations in the common currency, French President Nicolas Sarkozy said Sunday.

Greek Prime Minister George Papandreou, in Paris as part of a four-city tour seeking firmer EU and U.S. support for new austerity measures to rein in its massive budget gap, received from Sarkozy the most outspoken support for his plans yet.

The French leader, coveting the chance to play the statesman with regional French elections to begin next Sunday, issued a warning to traders who would bet against the euro zone's willingness to defend a member state. And in a show of high-stakes poker with speculators, he purposely didn't detail what measures the bloc might take.

Papandreou's government has committed to a severe austerity plan to reduce Greece's massive 12.7 percent budget deficit, and has warned that going to the International Monetary Fund is an option if a European solution is not found.

"The Greek government ... took the measures asked of it. Euro zone states must now be ready to take theirs," Sarkozy told a news conference alongside Papandreou at the French presidential palace.

"Of course, the future of Greece is in question, but it's also that of Europe being played out," Sarkozy said. "Europeans have created a common currency—all the countries that share this currency must show solidarity."

Sarkozy, who along with German Chancellor Angela Merkel is seeking to calm markets and bring down Greece's high borrowing costs, didn't spell out any specific ideas.

## BoG establishes BG Wealth Management Services

■ **Unit will offer investment, retirement and estate planning**

**HAGATNA, Guam**—Bank of Guam has established BG Wealth Management Services, in partnership with Money Concepts International, Inc.

Established in 1979 by John P. Walsh and based in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida, Money Concepts is a wealth management and financial planning firm. Money Concepts International, Inc. recently won the endorsement of the American Bankers Association.

In launching this service, Bank of Guam president, CEO, and board chair Lou A. Leon Guerrero noted, "The Bank of Guam's partnership with Money Concepts International, Inc. provides a much-needed service to our people to plan for their future financial needs and stability. Services such as investment planning, retirement planning, estate planning are included to equip our clients to meet individual financial goals."

Headed by vice president Frances Morgan Okougbo, BGI Wealth Management Services is staffed by vice president Ann Roth and Financial Services Officer Michael San Nicolas. Collectively, the three have over 50 years of financial planning and/or trust experience.

BG Wealth Management Services is located on the 7th floor of the Bank of Guam Headquarters building in Hagatna. The telephone number is (671) 472-5141, and the fax number is (671) 472-1580.

BG Wealth officers can be reached at the following email addresses:

- Frances.okougbo@bankofguam.com
- Ann.roth@bankofguam.com
- Michael.sannicolas@bankofguam.com

For additional information, contact Frances Morgan Okougbo at 472-5141. ***(PR)***

# Nation

## ACROSS THE NATION

### Van accident at NYC church kills woman, injures 4

NEW YORK (AP)—A van has struck five people in the parking lot of a New York City church, killing one and injuring four. Police Lt. John Grimpel says no criminality is suspected in Sunday's accident at the Pyeong AHN Presbyterian Church in Brooklyn. He says 40-year-old Sung Won Cho died of her injuries at the scene. The four people injured by the van have been taken to a hospital. Police say their injuries aren't life-threatening.

### Second death at New Mexico refinery confirmed

**ARTESIA, N.M.** (AP)—A second man is confirmed dead in last week's refinery explosion and fire at Navajo Refinery in the southeastern New Mexico community of Artesia. Authorities located one body immediately after the March 2 fire, but had said a second man was missing and presumed dead. Navajo Refinery's parent company, Holly Corp. of Dallas, announced this weekend that the second fatality has been confirmed.

### No bond for pair charged in 3 Chicago-area deaths

**WHEATON, Ill.** (AP)—Two men charged in the shooting deaths of three members of a suburban Chicago family have been denied bond. Prosecutors say 28-year-old Johnny Borizov persuaded 23-year-old alleged shooter Jacob Nodarse to kill the mother of his 1-year-old son, her parents and brother over a custody dispute. The woman, Angela Kramer, escaped injury. But the bodies of her mother, father and brother were found at their Darien home on Tuesday. A funeral mass for all three victims was scheduled for Monday.

### 3 in Coast Guard helicopter crash back at NC base

SALT LAKE CITY (AP)—Three crew members aboard a Coast Guard helicopter that crashed in Utah last week have returned to their home base in Elizabeth City, N.C. The helicopter with five aboard went down Wednesday in the Uinta mountains as the crew returned home from a security detail at the Winter Olympics in Vancouver, B.C. Three people were hospitalized after the crash. On Saturday, three crew members returned to their base: 37-year-old Patrick Shaw of Juneau, Alaska; 22-year-old Petty Officer 3rd Class Darren Hicks of Oroville, Wash.; and 26-year-old Petty Officer 3rd Class Edward Sychra of Blanchard, Idaho.

# Database can crack missing person cases—if used

**MINNEAPOLIS** (AP)—A new online database promises to crack some of the nation's 100,000 missing persons cases and provide answers to desperate families, but only a fraction of law enforcement agencies are using it.

The clearinghouse, dubbed NamUs (Name Us), offers a quick way to check whether a missing loved one might be among the 40,000 sets of unidentified remains that languish at any given time with medical examiners across the country. NamUs is free, yet many law enforcement agencies still aren't aware of it, and others aren't convinced they should use their limited staff resources to participate.

Janice Smolinski hopes that changes—and soon. Her son, Billy, was 31 when he vanished five years ago. The Cheshire, Conn., woman fears he was murdered, his body hidden away.

She's now championing a bill in Congress, named "Billy's Law" after her son, that would set aside more funding and make other changes to encourage wider use of NamUs. Only about 1,100 of the nearly 17,000 law enforcement agencies nationwide are registered to use the system, even though it already has been hailed for solving 16 cases since it became fully operational last year.

AP

In a photo made March 17, 2007, Janice Smolinski poses in her Cheshire, Conn., home where a photo of her son, Billy, is visible in the foreground.

"As these cases become more well known, as people learn about the successes of NamUs, more and more agencies are going to want to be part of it," said Kristina Rose, acting director of the National Institute of Justice at the Justice Department.

Before NamUs, families and investigators had to go through the slow process of checking with medical examiner's offices one by one. As the Smolinski family searched for clues to Billy's fate, they met a maze of federal, state and nonprofit missing person databases that weren't completely public and didn't share information well with each other.

NamUs, the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System, allows one-stop sleuthing for amateurs, families and police. Anyone can enter all the data they have on a missing person, including descriptions, photos, fingerprints, dental records and DNA. Medical examiners can enter the same data on unidentified bodies, and anyone can search the database for potential matches that warrant further investigation.

So far, about 6,200 sets of remains and nearly 2,800 missing people have been entered, said Kevin Lothridge, CEO of the National Forensic Science Technology Center in Largo, Fla., which runs NamUs for the Justice Department.

Detective Jim Shields of the Omaha, Neb., Police Department hadn't heard about NamUs until he saw a presentation at a conference in 2008. He then had a local volunteer associated with NamUs input his data on several missing people.

Among them was Luis Fernandez, who had been missing for nearly a year before his family went to police in 2008. Shields didn't have a lot on Fernandez, a known gang member who'd been in and out of jail—only gender, race, height, weight, age and some data on his tattoos.

It proved to be enough. Just a few weeks later, similarities were spotted with the unidentified remains of a homicide victim found in a farm field in Iowa in 2007. In January, a lab informed Shields it had a DNA match—and that he could break the news to Fernandez' family.

# *Police say bones of 14-year-old Calif. girl found*

**ESCONDIDO, Calif.** (AP)—The bones of a 14-year-old Southern California girl who vanished more than a year ago while walking to school were discovered in a rugged, remote area, authorities said Sunday, less than a week after a registered sex offender was charged with murdering another teenage girl who lived nearby.

The search for Amber Dubois had produced few leads until 17-year-old Chelsea King disappeared Feb. 25, last seen wearing running clothes in a park about 10 miles south of where Amber was last seen walking with a man. A body presumed to be Chelsea's was found in a shallow, lakeside grave five days after Chelsea disappeared.

Searchers found Amber's skeletal remains early Saturday on the Pala Indian Reservation, a sparsely populated area that occupies more than 12,000 acres in the northeast corner of San Diego County, said Escondido Police Chief Jim Maher. The county medical examiner's office confirmed later in the day the remains were Amber's through dental records, he said.

Maher declined to answer questions during a news conference Sunday because he said the discovery was part of an ongoing murder investigation. He said a "lead" brought investigators to the reservation, but he did not elaborate.

"I certainly had hoped that when the day came to do a press conference on Amber it would be under much different circumstances, but that was not to be," he said.

Amber's parents, Maurice Dubois and Carrie McGonigle, appeared distraught at his side. Maurice Dubois briefly thanked everyone who searched for Amber since her Feb. 13, 2009, disappearance near Escondido High School, particularly volunteers.

"They were the most dedicated people you could ever imagine," he said. "Without them, we couldn't have done anything."

John Albert Gardner III, 30, pleaded not guilty Wednesday to murdering Chelsea and raping or attempting to rape her and attempting to rape another woman in December, a potential death penalty case.

AP

This undated file image provided by the Dubois family shows Amber Dubois. Authorities in Southern California say the skeletal remains of Dubois, a 14-year-old girl who disappeared a year ago while walking to school, have been found in a remote area of the Pala Indian Reservation.

A spokesman for the San Diego County district attorney's office, Paul Levikow, declined to comment Sunday on the investigation into Amber's death.

Gardner was registered as a sex offender in Escondido, a north San Diego suburb, from January 2008 to January 2010, with some gaps, police say.

He served five years of a six-year prison term for molesting a 13-year-old neighbor in San Diego in 2000; he saw her at a bus stop and lured her to his home to watch movies. He completed parole in September 2008.

Amber was last seen walking with a man about 200 yards from Escondido High School by a woman who used to drive her to middle school, her father said. Another neighbor reported seeing her about 300 yards from school. She never appeared on school surveillance cameras.

Amber, a Future Farmers of America member, left home with a $200 check to buy a lamb. It was never cashed, fueling suspicion of foul play.

# Obama's health care pitch to Democrats: Trust me

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—In private pitches to Democrats, President Barack Obama says he will persuade Congress to pass his health care overhaul even if it kills him and even if he has to ask deeply distrustful lawmakers to trust him on a promise the White House doesn't have the power to keep.

That, in a sometimes darkly joking way, is what the president is telling Democratic House members as he begins an all-out push to coax Congress into passing his proposals despite voters' misgivings and Republicans' dire warnings.

"He made the case, 'Listen, we put in a very hard year working on health care reform and the time for action is now,'" said Rep. Ron Kind, D-Wis., one of several Democrats who met with Obama at the White House on Thursday.

Obama joked that the political battle has contributed to the recent rise in his cholesterol, Kind said, and the president noted how ironic it would be if health care drove him to his grave.

But Obama is anything but sickly these days, making health care pitches Monday in Philadelphia and Wednesday in St. Louis, and instructing aides to address every question or concern Democratic lawmakers possibly can raise.

Some answers, however, rely more on faith than fact. Confronting party unrest on his left and right, Obama is calling for political courage, citing historic opportunities and essentially saying "trust me" in areas inherently murky, uncertain and out of his control. The process for getting health care legislation through Congress is tough enough already, and Republicans are determined to derail it.

Obama told House liberals last week that he understands their frustration in seeing priorities—such as allowing the government to sell insurance in competition with private companies—dropped from the revised legislation. He promised to work with them in the future to improve health care laws, said Rep. Barbara Lee, D-Calif., who leads the Congressional Black Caucus.

"He said, `This is the first step, a foundation that we can build upon,'" she said. "He made a commitment to work with us on all the issues that are outstanding, and there are many."

# Asia

# NKorea says ready to 'blow up' SKorea, US

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea's army said Monday it is ready to "blow up" South Korea and the U.S., hours after the allies kicked off annual military drills that Pyongyang has slammed as a rehearsal for attack.

South Korea and the U.S.—which normally dismiss such threats as rhetoric—began 11 days of drills across South Korea on Monday morning to rehearse how the U.S. would deploy in time of emergency on the Korean peninsula.

The U.S. and South Korea argue the drills—which include live firing by U.S. Marines, aerial attack drills and urban warfare training—are purely defensive. North Korea claims they amount to attack preparations and has demanded they be canceled.

The North's People's Army issued a statement later Monday, warning the drills created a tense situation and that its troops are "fully ready" to "blow up" the allies once the order is issued.

The North also put all its soldiers and reservists on high alert to "mercilessly crush the aggressors" should they encroach upon the North's territory even slightly, said the statement carried by the official Korean Central News Agency.

The communist country has issued similar rhetoric in the days leading up the drills. On Sunday, it said it would bolster its nuclear capability and break off dialogue with the U.S. in response to the drills.

South Korea's military has been closely monitoring Pyongyang's maneuvers but hasn't seen any signs of suspicious activities by North Korean troops, Seoul's Joint Chiefs of Staff said earlier Monday.

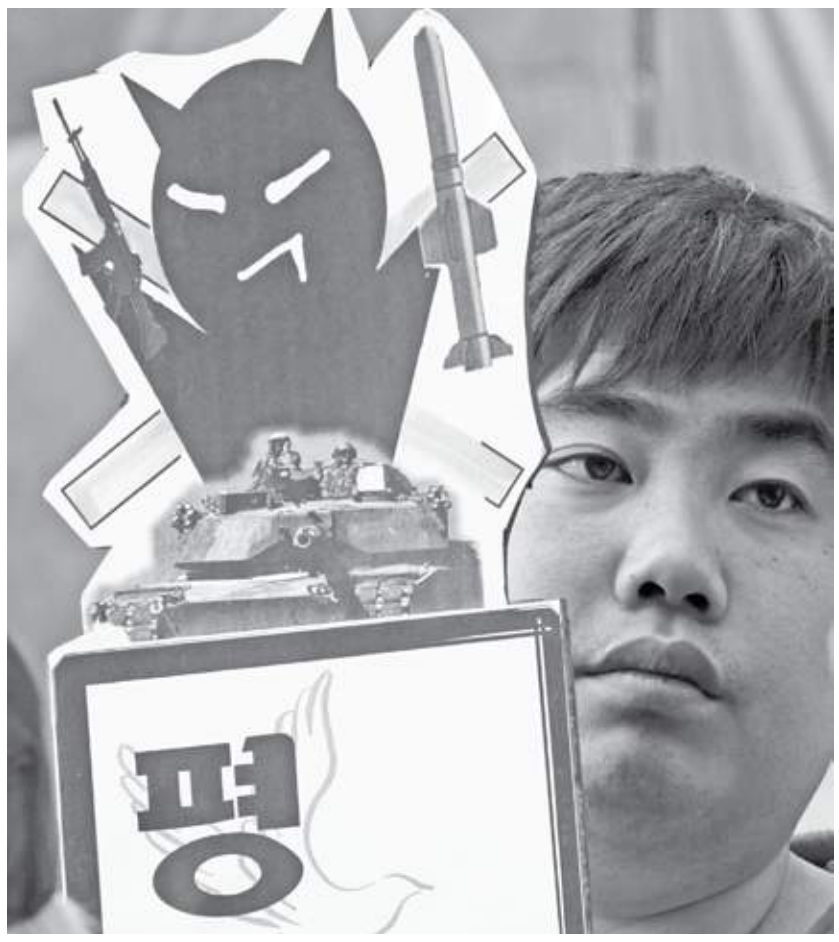
"We see it as (North Korea's) stereotype denouncement," Defense Ministry spokesman Won Tae-jae told reporters.

About 18,000 American soldiers and an undisclosed number of South Korean troops are taking part in the drills, dubbed Key Resolve and Foal Eagle, according to U.S. and South Korean militaries.

The training comes as the U.S. and other regional powers are pushing for the North to rejoin international disarmament talks on ending its atomic weapons program in return for aid. The North quit the six-nation weapons talks and conducted its second nuclear test last year, drawing tighter U.N. sanctions.

The North has demanded a lifting of the sanctions and peace talks with the U.S. on formally ending the Korean War before it returns to the negotiations. The U.S. and South Korea have responded that the North must first return to the disarmament talks and make progress on denuclearization.

The U.S. stations about 28,500 troops in South Korea.



AP

A South Korean protester participates in a rally against the annual joint military exercises, dubbed Key Resolve and Foal Eagle, between South Korea and the United States, in front of the South Korean and United States War Command Center TANGO, Theater Air, Navy, Ground Operation, in Seongnam, South Korea, Monday, March 8, 2010.

## ASIAN BRIEFS

### 12 killed in Philippine bus accident

**SAN FERNANDO, Philippines** (AP)—A bus carrying Christian pilgrims from a northern Philippine mountain resort has slammed into a tree after its brakes apparently failed, killing 12 people and injuring 14 others. Police Senior Superintendent Noli Talino said Sunday that the driver rammed the bus into the tree to prevent the vehicle from falling into a deep ravine. He says the impact pinned 10 passengers inside the bus, killing them, while two other passengers were thrown out of the bus by the impact and fell to their deaths in the ravine. The accident happened Saturday in Pugo township near Baguio city as the group returned from a pilgrimage to Catholic churches and a visit to tourist spots.

### RP troops hunts for rebels behind deadly ambush

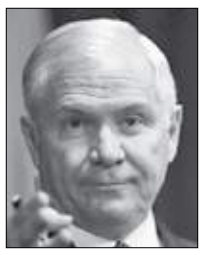
**MANILA, Philippines** (AP)—Hundreds of Filipino troops searched Sunday for communist guerrillas who killed 11 soldiers in a setback for the military's drive to defeat a four-decade insurgency before President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo leaves office in June. Seven other soldiers were wounded in the attack Saturday by about 60 guerrillas of the New People's Army near Mansalay township in Mindoro Oriental province, about 150 miles (240 kilometers) south of Manila. Several rebels may have been injured during the three-hour gunbattle, military officials said. It was the army's biggest loss in a single clash so far this year. Last month, rebels killed five soldiers and wounded eight others in a battle in the northern Philippines. "We'll be conducting an investigation if there was possible tactical blunder in the operation," army Lt. Gen. Roland Detabali said. "It might have not been well-supervised."

### Blast hits police building in Pakistan, 8 dead

**LAHORE, Pakistan** (AP)—A suicide car bomber struck a building where police interrogate high-value suspects in Pakistan's eastern city of Lahore on Monday, killing at least eight people, officials said. Some 45 others were wounded in what appeared to be the biggest explosion to strike the nuclear-armed, U.S.-allied country in several weeks, breaking a relative lull in violence. No group immediately claimed responsibility, but suspicion immediately fell on the Pakistani Taliban and allied militant groups responsible for a wave of attacks that killed more than 600 people late last year—a stretch of violence that appeared to be retaliation for a military offensive against insurgents along the Afghan border.

## US defense chief lands in Afghanistan for meetings

**KABUL** (AP)—U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates arrived in Afghanistan early Monday as coalition forces continue to restore order in the town of Marjah, the first major test of the U.S. and NATO counterinsurgency strategy since President Barack Obama ordered 30,000 new American troops to blunt the Taliban's momentum.



Gates

Gates said the offensive that began last month is encouraging, but he stopped short of saying the success in Marjah suggests that the war is at a turning point. The Marjah campaign routed most Taliban fighters from a town they once controlled, without a high casualty toll for U.S. troops and the Afghan security forces fighting alongside them.

Despite what he called positive signs, Gates cautioned against optimism.

"People still need to understand there is some very hard fighting, very hard days ahead," Gates told reporters traveling with him for the unannounced visit.

During his visit, Gates is scheduled to meet with his top military commanders and senior Afghan officials.

"The early signs are encouraging but I worry that people will get too impatient and think things are better than they actually are," Gates said.

The war is now in its ninth year and unpopular with a majority of Americans. The challenge for the Obama administration is to demonstrate clear progress against the entrenched Taliban insurgency this year, when the number of U.S. forces in the country will reach roughly 100,000—nearly triple the size of the force when Obama took office.

Afghan President Hamid Karzai has invited Taliban participation in a spring peace conference, but U.S. officials have suggested that it is too soon to hold such a session.

The United States supports reconciliation efforts with the Taliban under certain conditions, but Gates and others have said that effort is only likely to succeed when the Taliban have been battered militarily and see that they are losing support from ordinary Afghans.

"My guess is they are not at that point yet," Gates said.

Meanwhile, Iran is "playing a double game" in Afghanistan, trying to woo the Afghan government and undermining U.S. and NATO efforts by helping the Taliban, Gates said. Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad was also visiting Afghanistan this week.

## Officers: Pakistan arrests American-born al-Qaida

**KARACHI, Pakistan** (AP)—The American-born spokesman for al-Qaida has been arrested by Pakistani intelligence officers in the southern city of Karachi, two officers and a government official said Sunday as video emerged of him urging U.S. Muslims to attack their own country.

The arrest of Adam Gadahn represents a major victory in the U.S.-led battle against al-Qaida and will be taken as a sign that Pakistan, criticized in the past for being an untrustworthy ally, is cooperating more fully with Washington. It follows the recent detentions of several Afghan Taliban commanders in Karachi, including the movement's No. 2 commander. U.S. officials did not immediately confirm Gadahn's capture.

Gadahn has appeared in more than half a dozen al-Qaida videos, taunting and threatening the West and calling for its destruction. A U.S. court charged Gadahn with treason in 2006, making him the first American to face such a charge in more than 50 years.

He was arrested in the sprawling southern metropolis of Karachi in recent days, two officers who took part in the operation said. A senior government official also confirmed the arrest, but said it happened Sunday. The discrepancy could not immediately be resolved.

They spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to release the information.

The intelligence officials said Gadahn was being interrogated by Pakistani officials. Pakistani agents and those from the CIA work closely on some operations in Pakistan, but it was not clear if any Americans were involved in the operation or questioning.

In the past, Pakistan has handed over some al-Qaida suspects arrested on its soil to the United States. Gadahn grew up on a goat farm in Riverside County, California, and converted to Islam at a mosque in nearby Orange County.

He moved to Pakistan in 1998, according to the FBI, and is said to have attended an al-Qaida training camp six years later, serving as a translator and consultant. He has been wanted by the FBI since 2004, and there is a $1 million reward for information leading to his arrest or conviction.

## China warns again against Hong Kong democracy push

**HONG KONG** (AP)—China has warned that a plan by pro-democracy activists in Hong Kong to use a special election as a de facto referendum on democratic reform is a threat to stability in the former British colony.

While Hong Kong returned to Chinese rule in 1997, it maintains a separate political system and enjoys Western-style civil liberties typically denied on the mainland. But Beijing has continued to deny full democracy. Hong Kong's leader is chosen by an 800-member committee stacked with pro-China figures and its legislature is half elected, half picked by special interest groups.

Pro-democracy activists have argued for years that the wealthy financial hub of 7 million people is mature enough to choose its own leaders. In their latest campaign, five opposition legislators—one from each of Hong Kong's five major electoral districts—resigned in January, triggering a special election. Opposition parties plan to field candidates in the by-election, hoping to turn the territory-wide contests into a de facto referendum on democratic reform.

"There are political groups that have launched the so-called 'five district referendum campaign,' even proposing sensational and extreme slogans like 'civic uprising' and 'liberating Hong Kong,'" Peng Qinghua, the head of China's liaison office in Hong Kong, said when he met with Hong Kong delegates on the sidelines of the annual meeting of China's parliament in Beijing on Saturday.

# World

# Iraqi voters undaunted by attacks that kill 36

**BAGHDAD** (AP)—Iraqis defied insurgents who lobbed hand grenades at voters and bombed a polling station Sunday in an attempt to intimidate those taking part in elections that will determine whether their country can overcome deep sectarian divides as U.S. forces prepare to leave.

The conclusion of the vote, however, did not spell an immediate end to political uncertainty. It could be days until results come in and with the fractured nature of Iraqi politics, it could take months to form a government.

Sunnis and Shiites seemed united in one way Sunday—defiance in the face of violence. Many came out of polling booths waving fingers dipped in purple ink in a now-iconic image synonymous with Iraq's democracy. In one Baghdad neighborhood, relatives who had just lost a family member in a bombing walked down to the polling booth to vote.

AP

Abdelrazik Abdellatif dips his finger in indelible ink after voting in Tikrit, Iraq on Sunday, March 7, 2010 in the country's parliamentary elections.

The violence was a direct challenge to Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki who has gained popularity as violence across the country has plummeted.

"I voted for Nouri al-Maliki because I trust him as a man who succeeded in getting rid of militias and building a strong state," said Saadi Mahdi, a 43-year old engineer in the southern oil city of Basra. It was there that al-Maliki first established himself as a leader willing to go against his fellow Shiites when he routed militias aligned with anti-American cleric Muqtada al-Sadr.

It was an election day that demonstrated starkly how far the country, a rare democracy in the Middle East, has come since the last nationwide parliamentary vote in December 2005 and how much still holds it back.

Instead of unified sectarian parties playing strictly to their Shiite, Sunni and Kurdish voters, the political blocs contesting the election were much more fractured and made at least some effort to cross over into other sects. Whereas only party names were known in the 2005 ballot—in order to protect candidates from assassination—this time cities were plastered with candidates' faces on posters as Iraqis voted for individual people.

And the American military presence so prominent in 2005 was limited on election day to helicopters buzzing over head as a massive deployment of Iraqi forces took the lead on the ground.

Still the violence that shook Baghdad served as a reminder of the insurgency's persistence and adaptability.

## Iraq's national election

*On March 7, Iraqis vote for a new parliament, The Council of Representatives, that will in turn select a new prime minister and cabinet.*

**Voters** 18.9 million inside Iraq

**Type of election** Iraqis vote for party slates, some individuals

**Candidates** 6,172; by law, 25 percent are women

**Out of country voting** Hundreds of thousands of refugees, immigrants can vote in polling places in 16 countries*

**Election security** Nighttime curfew, provincial borders sealed, vehicle ban

### Parliament seats by province

310 seats are allocated by population

| | Province | Seats |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Baghdad | 68 |
| 2 | Babil | 16 |
| 3 | Basra | 24 |
| 4 | Wasit | 11 |
| 5 | Karbala | 10 |
| 6 | Dhi Qar | 18 |
| 7 | Najaf | 12 |
| 8 | Qadisiyah | 11 |
| 9 | Muthanna | 7 |
| 10 | Maysan | 10 |
| 11 | Diyala | 13 |
| 12 | Anbar | 14 |
| 13 | Salah Addin | 12 |
| 14 | Ninawa | 31 |
| 15 | Sulaymaniyah | 17 |
| 16 | Irbil | 14 |
| 17 | Kirkuk | 12 |
| 18 | Dohuk | 10 |
| | Compensatory** | 15 |
| | **Total** | **325** |

*Iran, U.S., Germany, U.K., Netherlands, Australia, Sweden, Turkey, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, Canada, UAE, Egypt, Austria, Denmark

**Reserved for minority candidates, others

Source: U.N. Assistance mission for Iraq, McClatchy Washington Bureau, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace
Graphic: Judy Treible

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# US troops withdrawing en masse from Haiti

**PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti** (AP)—U.S. troops are withdrawing from the shattered capital, leaving many Haitians anxious that the most visible portion of international aid is ending even as the city is still mired in misery and vulnerable to unrest.

As troops packed their duffels and began to fly home this weekend, Haitians and some aid workers wondered whether U.N. peacekeepers and local police are up to the task of maintaining order. More than a half-million people still live in vast encampments that have grown more unpleasant in recent days with the early onset of rainy season.

Some also fear the departure of the American troops is a sign of dwindling international interest in the plight of the Haitian people following the catastrophic Jan. 12 earthquake.

"I would like for them to stay in Haiti until they rebuild the country and everybody can go back to their house," said Marjorie Louis, a 27-year-old mother of two, as she warmed a bowl of beans for her family over a charcoal fire on the fake grass of the national stadium.

U.S. officials say the long-anticipated draw down of troops is not a sign of waning commitment to Haiti, only a change in the nature of the operation.

# Nigeria: More than 200 dead in religious violence

**JOS, Nigeria** (AP)—Rioters armed with machetes slaughtered more than 200 people overnight Sunday as religious violence flared anew between Christians and Muslims in central Nigeria, witnesses said. Hundreds of people fled their homes, fearing reprisal attacks.

The bodies of the dead—including many women and children—lined dusty streets in three mostly Christian villages south of the regional capital of Jos, local journalists and a civil rights group said. They said at least 200 bodies had been counted by Sunday afternoon.

Torched homes smoldered after the 3 a.m. attacks that a region-wide curfew enforced by the country's police and military should have stopped.

The killings represent the latest religious violence in an area once known as Nigeria's top tourist destination, adding to the tally of thousands already killed in the last decade in the name of religious and political ambitions.

Jos lies in Nigeria's "middle belt," where dozens of ethnic groups mingle in a band of fertile and hotly contested land separating the Muslim north from the predominantly Christian south.

## WORLD BRIEFS

### Earthquake shakes eastern Turkey; 11 dead

**ANKARA, Turkey** (AP)—A strong earthquake, with a preliminary magnitude of 6, hit eastern Turkey Monday, killing at least 11 people, an official said. Gov. Muammer Erol said the victims were from the small village of Okcular, where the earthquake knocked down houses. CNN-Turk television said rescue teams dispatched to the area were working to save six people trapped under rubble. At least four of the victims were children, according to the private Dogan news agency. The quake in Elazig province occurred at 4:32 a.m. (0232 GMT) and was centered near the village of Basyurt, the Istanbul-based Kandilli Observatory. It was followed by an aftershock measuring 4.1.

### Togo opposition claims fraud in presidential vote

**LOME, Togo** (AP)—Togo's top opposition candidate was pelted with tear gas for a second time Sunday as he vowed to take to the streets every day in protest of what he says was an election rigged to favor the son of the country's longtime dictator. "I am ready to die," opposition leader Jean-Pierre Fabre said a few minutes before walking outside the party's headquarters before a column of anti-riot police. "We're going to make them exhaust their stock of tear gas. We cannot let this go on, otherwise they'll hang on to power for the next 200 years." Provisional results released late Saturday show Fabre lost to current President Faure Gnassingbe, whose 1.2 million votes gave him 60.9 percent of the vote. Fabre received 692,584 votes, or 33.9 percent.

### Pope's brother says he would testify in abuse case

**ROME** (AP)—The brother of Pope Benedict XVI has told a newspaper he is willing to testify in the sex scandal rocking Germany's Catholic Church, even though he says he knows nothing about the alleged abuse of boys in a choir he later led. The Rev. Georg Ratzinger, in an interview published Sunday, also was quoted as saying by the Rome daily La Repubblica that there was "discipline and rigor" but no terror during his 30 years as head of the Regensburger Domspatzen choir in Germany. The Regensburg Diocese said last week that a former singer came forward with allegations of sexual abuse in the early 1960s. The German newsweekly *Der Spiegel* has reported that therapists in the region are treating several alleged victims from the choir.

# Iran begins production of cruise missiles

**TEHRAN, Iran** (AP)—Iran announced Sunday that it has started a new production line of highly accurate, short range cruise missiles, which would add a new element to the country's already imposing arsenal.

Gen. Ahmad Vahidi told Iranian state TV that the cruise missile, called Nasr 1, would be capable of destroying targets up to 3,000 tons in size.

The minister said the missile can be fired from ground-based launchers as well as ships, but would eventually be modified to be fired from helicopters and submarines.

Western powers are already concerned about Iran's military capabilities, especially the implications of its nuclear program. The U.S. and some of its allies, as well as the International Atomic Energy Agency, fear Iran is trying to produce nuclear weapons, a charge Iran denies.

The West is considering stiffer sanctions against Tehran to try to force it to halt uranium enrichment, a process that has civilian uses but can be also used for nuclear arms if the uranium is enriched over 90 percent.

Iran also boasts an array of short and medium-range missiles capable of hitting targets in the region, including Israel, U.S. military bases in the region and much of Europe.

Tehran frequently makes announcements about new advances in military technology that cannot be independently verified.

Gen. Vahidi said the production of the cruise missiles, which took two years to develop, showed that sanctions on Iran have failed. He said the cruise missiles would strengthen Iran's naval power.

Cruise missiles are highly advanced, usually subsonic rocket-powered weapons that can hug the ground and hit targets with great precision. The U.S. used large numbers of cruise missiles in its attack on Baghdad in 2002, launching most of them from warships in the Persian Gulf.

# Overdrive

# Sonata ups its game for 2011

Comes the redesigned 2011 Hyundai Sonata, and suddenly, Honda and Toyota are playing catch-up.

By STEVEN COLE SMITH
THE ORLANDO SENTINEL

**ORLANDO, Fla.**—Hyundai, which has been updating its product line this last decade at a rate unmatched by other manufacturers, keeps building better and better vehicles. The Sonata has always been Hyundai's competitor to the Honda Accord and Toyota Camry, and the last two generations of the Sonata have come startlingly close to matching the two segment leaders.

Now comes the redesigned 2011 Sonata, and suddenly, Honda and Toyota are playing catch-up. It's early to be handicapping the field for the 2011 car of the year, but I'm confident that the Sonata will be, at worst, a finalist.

The 2011 Sonata has a 2.4-liter four-cylinder with direct injection—fuel is injected directly into the combustion chamber for greater efficiency—that pumps out 200 horsepower in the test model, an SE. In the base GLS, and up-level Limited, the engine has 198 horsepower, because the sportier SE has a less restrictive exhaust system. The base GLS is offered with a six-speed manual. A six-speed automatic is optional, and standard on the SE and Limited. A 2.0-liter turbocharged four-cylinder, with at least 250 horsepower, will be offered later this year, followed by a hybrid model.

Aside from having a couple more horsepower, the SE also has bigger 18-inch tires and wheels. The 2011 Sonata is slightly larger than the current model, but is considerably lighter, as designers and engineers put the car on a diet, using more aluminum and other lightweight materials.

Inside, the Sonata SE's trim, instruments and controls are on par with the competition. If you want luxury, the Limited has leather. Taking a page from Honda, there is a very short list of options—the most expensive is a navigation system with an upgraded sound system that adds $2,100. Front seats are comfortable and supportive, and six-footers fit in the rear with no problem.

Trunk space, at 16.4 cubic feet, is ample, but accessed through a rather narrow opening due to the hatchback-looking roofline. Safety features include six airbags, stability control, brake assist and traction control.

On the road, the 2.4-liter four-cylinder matches up well with the automatic transmission. I haven't driven the turbocharged 2.0-liter, but since that's the base engine in the current Genesis coupe, I expect it to have plenty of muscle.

Perhaps the central Sonata selling point, though, is styling. Past Sonata models have been rather undistinguished, and while the last generation was a good-looking car, it was hard to deny that it had a generic appearance. No longer: From all angles, the new Sonata is handsome and very recognizable.

And it's priced right. The base Sonata GLS starts at $19,195. For the test SE, with shipping and optional carpeted floor mats and wheel locks—all else was standard—list price was $23,465.

Honda? Toyota? The ball's in your court.

**2011 HYUNDAI SONATA**
**Base price:** $19,195
**Price as tested:** $23,465
**EPA rating:** 22 miles per gallon city driving, 35 mpg highway.
**Details:** Front-engine, front-wheel-drive sedan with a 2.4-liter, 200 horsepower four-cylinder engine and a six-speed automatic transmission.

## UNDER THE HOOD

# Electronic throttle control is complicated, but precise

By BRAD BERGHOLDT
MCCLATCHY-TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

**QUESTION: This latest talk of electronics problems on Toyotas has me creeped out even more than before. I was considering the purchase of a new Lexus but am now afraid to pull the trigger. Any light you could shed on this would be appreciated.—Kelsey Pooler**

**ANSWER:** It's been a while since we looked at electronic throttle control (ETC), so perhaps we could do so again. ETC has been around for quite some time and is also used in big trucks, heavy equipment, and airplanes. Getting rid of the mechanical connection between one's foot and throttle sounds a little scary, but when it's done right (as it is), the chances of a problem are minuscule, and the benefits are many.

ETC allows more precise throttle control, improving fuel economy. ETC makes it possible for the vehicle's stability and/or traction control systems to reduce throttle from that requested, in order to regain or enhance vehicle control. What's more, it eliminates the need for idle speed and cruise control actuators, saving weight, complexity and cost.

ETC systems typically employ a pair of pedal position sensors attached to or near the accelerator pedal. The sensors are wired opposite of each other, or operate at differing voltages, so should an electrical fault such as excessive resistance, a short, or open circuit develop in the either of the sensors or wiring, it's easily recognized rather than misinterpreted. Sensor information is received by the powertrain control module (PCM), processed for rationality, and acted upon via commands to an electric motor attached to the throttle. This side of the system is also designed carefully. The motor requires not one, but two precise electrical signals to operate, and double/opposite throttle position sensors indicate true throttle position.

Should a manageable fault occur, such as a single irrational sensor, the system will reduce available throttle dramatically or completely and illuminate the check engine light. A more severe fault will result in complete suspension of throttle operation. In this case a strong spring in the throttle assembly forces the throttle to about 6 percent opening, so the vehicle can be limped safely to the side of, or off the road. Fuel delivery, ignition timing, and/or valve operation may also be manipulated to allow alternatively controlled engine operation.

Concerns of electromagnetic interference affecting vehicle electronics have now surfaced. Electromagnetic interference is caused by a rapidly changing electrical current and can occur from sources inside or external to the vehicle, possibly affecting system operation. This is troubling, as the problem has many possible sources and doesn't leave any fingerprints for subsequent diagnosis. My experience with vehicle electronics, dating back to the 1980 Chevy Citation (a check engine light magnet), gives me confidence in the robust EMI suppression strategies used by all carmakers. The vast majority of the problems I've encountered have had a verifiable cause, and it wasn't EMI. You're more likely, I believe, to have a wheel fall off, than to encounter a serious EMI-caused problem.

*Brad Bergholdt is an automotive technology instructor at Evergreen Valley College in San Jose, Calif. Readers may send him e-mail at under-the-hood@earthlink.net; he cannot make personal replies.*

## MOTORING Q&A

# Be mindful of oil level in aging cars

By PAUL BRAND
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

**QUESTION: My husband drives a 1997 Saturn SL2. We have the oil changed on a regular basis, but the past few times when they do the oil change, the oil level is so low they can't read it on the dipstick. What could be wrong with it?**

**ANSWER:** Without being too harsh, the problem isn't the car, it's the owners. It would appear that no one checks the oil level between oil changes. The vehicle is 13 years old and likely has relatively high mileage. Consuming a quart or two of oil in 3,000 to 5,000 miles of driving is absolutely normal for a vehicle of this age and mileage. So the answer is quite simple. Check the oil level every two to four weeks and add oil as necessary to keep it topped up between oil changes.

■■■

**Q: I have a '98 Jeep Wrangler that, when turned to go around a corner, likes to continue to turn. The steering wheel must be manually turned back to center in order to go straight again. I have stock-size tires, and the vehicle has been aligned. Also, tire pressure is 32 psi and the power steering fluid is up to the proper level. All front end parts were deemed fine by the shop that did the alignment. The Jeep did have this issue before the steering was aligned.**

**A:** Have the alignment double-checked. The self-centering characteristic in modern steering systems is generated by the caster angle in the steering geometry. Viewed from the side of the vehicle, caster is the rearward tilt of the vertical axis through the centerline of the upper and lower ball joints. The most recent alignment specs for your Jeep call for seven degrees of caster. If the caster angle is too small, the steering won't generate as much self-centering characteristic as it should.

If the alignment is correct, the problem may be in the power steering or the recirculating ball steering box.

■■■

**Q: I have a 2005 Kia Sportage with 85,000 miles. The airbag light is on. Would this be covered by warranty? Is it expensive to get fixed?**

**A:** The manufacturer's basic warranty on your vehicle provided coverage for five years or 60,000 miles. As long as the airbag warning light is on, the airbags may not deploy properly in a crash. Regardless of warranty coverage, have the dealer plug in a scan tool to identify why the airbag light remains on. Because your vehicle is just into its fifth year, I would hope the dealer and manufacturer would cover any repairs to the airbag system with a "customer goodwill" adjustment. No guarantee, but it's always worth asking.

■■■

**Q: On the dashboard display of my 2007 Avalon, a symbol lights up that resembles a cross-section of a tire when the engine is running. The display diagram indicates that this is a tire pressure warning. In the owner's manual there is no information about this, and a visual check of the wheels shows only the normal valve caps. I regularly check my tire pressures and keep them at the recommended figure. Is it all right to ignore this light until the next service or until the car is recalled?**

**A:** Believe it or not, check the pressure in the spare tire—it may also have a tire pressure sensor. You can also reset the tire pressure warning light by turning the key on and holding the reset button—found at the bottom of the dash near your knees—until the warning light goes out.

As long as the four tires on the vehicle are properly inflated, your Avalon is safe to drive.

*Paul Brand is author of* How to Repair Your Car *and an automotive troubleshooter, driving instructor and former race-car driver. Readers may write to him at: Star Tribune, 425 Portland Avenue South, Minneapolis, Minn. 55488 or via e-mail at paulbrand@startribune.com. Please explain the problem in detail and include a daytime phone number. It isn't always possible to send a personal reply.*

# Life & Style

# 'Hurt Locker' earns best-picture Academy Award

**LOS ANGELES** (AP)—The Iraq War drama "The Hurt Locker" won best picture and five other prizes Sunday at the Academy Awards, its haul including best director for Kathryn Bigelow.

Bigelow is the first woman in the 82-year history of the Oscars to earn Hollywood's top prize for filmmakers.

"There's no other way to describe it. It's the moment of a lifetime," Bigelow said. "It's so extraordinary to be in the company of my fellow nominees, such powerful filmmakers, who have inspired me and I have admired, some of them for decades."

Among those Bigelow and "The Hurt Locker" beat are ex-husband James Cameron and his sci-fi spectacle "Avatar." Bigelow and Cameron were married from 1989-91.

Cameron was seated right behind Bigelow at the Oscars and joined a standing ovation for her, clapping vigorously and saying, "Yes, yes" after she won.

First-time winners took all four acting prizes: Sandra Bullock as best actress for "The Blind Side"; Jeff Bridges as best actor for "Crazy Heart"; Mo'Nique as supporting actress for "Precious"; and Christoph Waltz as supporting actor for "Inglourious Basterds."

The Oscar marks a career peak for Bridges, a beloved Hollywood veteran who had been nominated four times in the previous 38 years without winning. Bridges, who played a boozy country singer trying to clean up his act, held his Oscar aloft and thanked his late parents, actor Lloyd Bridges and poet Dorothy Bridges.

"Thank you, Mom and Dad, for turning me on to such a groovy profession," said Bridges, recalling how his mother would get her children to entertain at parties and his father would sit on the bed teaching him the basics of acting for an early part he landed on his dad's TV show "Sea Hunt."

"I feel an extension of them. This is honoring them as much as it is me," Bridges said.

Bullock, an industry darling who had never before been nominated, won for her role as a wealthy woman who takes in homeless future NFL star Michael Oher, who was living on the streets as a teen.

The award wraps up a wild year for Bullock, who had box-office smashes with "Blind Side" and "The Proposal" and a flop with "All About Steve," which earned her the worst-actress trophy at the Razzies the night before the Oscars.

"Did I really earn this or did I just wear you all down?" Bullock asked the Oscar crowd.

AP

Kathryn Bigelow accepts the Oscar for best achievement in directing for "The Hurt Locker" from presenter Barbara Streisand at the 82nd Academy Awards Sunday, March 7, 2010, in the Hollywood section of Los Angeles.

Bullock gushed with praise for her fellow nominees, including Meryl Streep, who she joked is "such a good kisser."

The supporting-acting winners capped remarkable years, Mo'Nique startling fans with dramatic depths previously unsuspected in the actress known for lowbrow comedy and the Austrian-born Waltz leaping to fame with his first big Hollywood role.

"I would like to thank the academy for showing that it can be about the performance and not the politics," said Mo'Nique, who plays the heartless, abusive welfare mother of an illiterate teen in the Harlem drama "Precious: Based on the Novel `Push' by Sapphire."

Mo'Nique added her gratitude to the first black actress to win an Oscar, Hattie McDaniel, the 1939 supporting-actress winner for "Gone With the Wind."

"I want to thank Miss Hattie McDaniel for enduring all that she had to so that I would not have to," she said, adding thanks to Oprah Winfrey and Tyler Perry, who signed on as executive producers to spread the word on "Precious" after it premiered at last year's Sundance Film Festival.

"Precious" also won the adapted-screenplay Oscar for Geoffrey Fletcher.

"This is for everybody who works on a dream every day. Precious boys and girls everywhere," Fletcher said.

Waltz's award was presented by last season's supporting-actress winner, Penelope Cruz, who gave Waltz a kiss as he took the stage.

"Oscar and Penelope. That's an uber-bingo," Waltz said.

Though a veteran stage and TV actor in Europe, Waltz had been a virtual unknown in Hollywood before Quentin Tarantino cast him as the prattling, ruthless Jew-hunter Hans Landa in his World War II saga.

"Quentin with his unorthodox methods of navigation, this fearless explorer, took this ship across and brought it in with flying colors, and that's why I'm here," Waltz said. "This is your welcoming embrace, and there's no way I can ever thank you enough."

"Avatar" won three Oscars, for visual effects, art direction and cinematography, beating "The Hurt Locker" for the latter. "The Hurt Locker" also won out over "Avatar" for film editing, sound editing and sound mixing.

With nine nominations each, "The Hurt Locker" and "Avatar" came in tied for the Oscar lead.

"Hurt Locker" screenwriter Mark Boal, who won the Oscar for original screenplay, thanked Bigelow, calling her an "extraordinary and visionary filmmaker," and dedicated his Oscar win to the troops still in Iraq and Afghanistan, along with those who did not make it home. Boal also affectionately recalled his father, who died a month ago.

Bigelow also added a prayer for the troops.

"I'd just like to dedicate this to the women and men in the military who risk their lives on a daily basis in Iraq and Afghanistan and around the world," Bigelow said. "And may they come home safe."

Joining Bigelow to collect the best-picture Oscar were her fellow "Hurt Locker" producers Boal and Greg Shapiro. A fourth producer—financier Nicolas Chartier, a key money man behind the film—was barred from attending as punishment for violating awards rules by sending e-mails to Oscar voters urging them to back "The Hurt Locker" over "Avatar."

Oscar overseers said Chartier still will receive his best-picture Oscar, but at a later time.

With just $12.6 million domestically, "The Hurt Locker" is the lowest-grossing film to win best picture in this modern era of detailed box-office bookkeeping.

The best-picture category was loaded with smash hits, "Avatar" at $720 million domestically and climbing and the animated blockbuster "Up" and "The Blind Side" topping $200 million.

"Up" earned the third-straight feature-animation Oscar for Disney's Pixar Animation, which now has won five of the nine awards since the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences added the category.

The film features Ed Asner providing the voice of a crabby widower who flies off on a grand adventure by lashing thousands of helium balloons to his house.

"Never did I dream that making a flip-book out of my third-grade math book would lead to this," said "Up" director Pete Docter, whose film also won for best musical score.

Pixar has a likely contender in the wings for next Oscar season with this summer's "Toy Story 3," reuniting voice stars Tom Hanks and Tim Allen.

Argentina's "The Secret in Their Eyes" pulled off a surprise win for foreign-language film over higher-profile entries that included Germany's "The White Ribbon" and France's "A Prophet."

"Crazy Heart" also won for original song with its theme tune "The Weary Kind."

The song category typically comes late in the show, after live performances of the nominees that have been spaced throughout the ceremony. Oscar producers tossed out those live performances this time in favor of montages featuring the songs and footage from the films they accompany.

"The Cove," an investigation into grisly dolphin-fishing operations in Japan, was picked as best documentary.

Oscar hosts Steve Martin and Alec Baldwin opened the show with playful ribbing of nominees. They also made note of Oscar organizers' decision to double the best-picture category from five films to 10.

"When that was announced, all of us in Hollywood thought the same thing. What's five times two?" Martin said.

Leaders of the Academy widened the best-picture category from the usual five films to expand the range of contenders for a ceremony whose predictability had turned it into a humdrum affair for TV audiences.

Oscar ratings fell to an all-time low two years ago and rebounded just a bit last year, when the show's overseers freshened things up with lively production numbers and new ways of presenting some awards.

The overhaul continued this season with a show that farmed out time-consuming lifetime-achievement honors to a separate event last fall and hired Martin and Baldwin as the first dual Oscar hosts in 23 years.

## *Sandra Bullock wins first Oscar as best actress*

**LOS ANGELES** (AP)—Sandra Bullock paid her dues in Hollywood for more than 20 years. She was rewarded Sunday, winning the best-actress Oscar for playing a tough white Southern woman who adopted a black child in "The Blind Side."

Bullock had repeatedly said she didn't think she was going to win, although the 45-year-old actress was a heavy favorite.

"Did I really earn this or did I just wear you all down?" she said after accepting the golden statue from Sean Penn.

In the closest race of the acting categories, Bullock was up against Meryl Steep in "Julie & Julia," former winner Helen Mirren in "The Last Station," and breakout stars Gabourey Sidibe of "Precious" and Carey Mulligan of "An Education" for their first-time leading roles.

Bullock had already won the Screen Actors Guild and Golden Globe awards, and tied Streep at the Broadcast Film Critics awards. Streep also won at the Globes.

At 60, Streep is the most nominated actor, male or female, of all time with 16 nods, but she's gone home empty-handed since her last best-actress win for "Sophie's Choice" in 1983.

AP

Sandra Bullock accepts the Oscar for best performance by an actress in a leading role for "The Blind Side" at the 82nd Academy Awards Sunday, March 7, 2010, in the Hollywood section of Los Angeles.

Her other victory was as supporting actress for "Kramer vs. Kramer" in 1980.

Bullock's Oscar triumph came a night after she won worst actress at the Razzies on Saturday for "All About Steve," a romantic comedy flop that quickly vanished at theaters in between her 2009 hits, "The Proposal" and "The Blind Side."

Bullock's breakout role came in the 1994 film "Speed." She went on to score box office successes in "While You Were Sleeping" and "Miss Congeniality." But she also appeared in a string of duds before a supporting role in the 2004 movie "Crash" earned Bullock some of the best reviews of her career.

Bullock became the first person to win an Oscar and a Razzie on the same weekend. She was the rare A-list star who attended the show that pokes fun at the Oscars by giving out prizes for Hollywood box office failures.

In "The Blind Side," Bullock donned a frosted blond wig and a Tennessee twang to play Leigh Anne Tuohy, the real-life adoptive mother of Baltimore Ravens football player Michael Oher.

### WINNERS' LIST

Partial list of winners at the 82nd annual Academy Awards:

- **Best Picture**: "Hurt Locker"
- **Best Actor**: Jeff Bridges, "Crazy Heart"
- **Best Actress**: Sandra Bullock, "The Blind Side"
- **Supporting Actor**: Christoph Waltz, "Inglourious Basterds."
- **Animated Feature Film**: "Up."
- **Original Song**: "The Weary Kind (Theme From Crazy Heart)" from "Crazy Heart," Ryan Bingham and T Bone Burnett.
- **Original Screenplay**: Mark Boal, "The Hurt Locker."
- **Animated Short Film**: "Logorama."
- **Documentary** (short subject): "Music by Prudence."
- **Live Action Short Film**: "The New Tenants."
- **Makeup**: "Star Trek."
- **Adapted Screenplay**: Geoffrey Fletcher, "Precious: Based on the Novel 'Push' by Sapphire."
- **Supporting Actress**: Mo'Nique, "Precious: Based on the Novel 'Push' by Sapphire."
- **Art Direction**: "Avatar."
- **Costume**: "The Young Victoria."
- **Sound Editing**: "The Hurt Locker."
- **Sound Mixing**: "The Hurt Locker."
- **Cinematography**: "Avatar."


*Announcement of Death*

Beatrice Borja Peredo Troup

**"Familian Dasu"**

June 23, 1959—March 6, 2010

Passed away at the Commonwealth Health Center on March 6, 2010.

A Memorial Service to celebrate her life will be held at a later date.

Thank you and Si Yu'us Ma'ase.

**Mike Troup and Family**

# Bullock wears 'Oscar' gown, other stars take risks

By SAMANTHA CRITCHELL
AP FASHION WRITER

Sandra Bullock dressed the part at Sunday's Academy Awards: She wore a gleaming, metallic, slim-fitting gown that seemed fashioned after the Oscar statuette itself.

The dress, at least, was a winner, making Bullock one of many who stepped up their style on what is considered Hollywood's most important runway. Top actresses made bold color choices, donned stiffer shapes and used sparkle strategically to get them noticed.

"This red carpet was whimsical, thank God. It was the most interesting red carpet in a long time," said Suze Yalof Schwartz, Glamour magazine's executive fashion editor at large. "You want to see a dress that makes you say `Wow!' and I saw at least six of those."

There had been a trend in recent years to make safe choices at the Oscars, with celebrities knowing that the photos taken there would follow them for the rest of their lives. But there was a refreshing sense of fun—and some directional fashion—this year.

"We're moving into architectural shapes and away from all the drapery. There were not a lot of `goddesses' this year," observed Sharon Graubard, senior vice president of trend analysis at forecasting firm Stylesight. "This was about glamour, very tasteful, grown-up glamour."

Gold was a huge trend, with Kate Winslet looking like an old-school movie star in her sleek, strapless gold gown by Yves Saint Laurent and Deco-inspired $2.5 million yellow-diamond necklace from Tiffany & Co. Cameron Diaz, with bold red lips, was another screen siren in a gold strapless gown with metallic ribbons and pailettes by Oscar de la Renta; Miley Cyrus wore a bustier-style strapless gold number by Jenny Packham; and Sarah Jessica Parker chose a custom yellow Chanel with silver flowers around the bustline.

"I loved Sarah Jessica Parker in Chanel. It was interesting, romantic and she's a fashion risk-taker," said Mary Alice Stephenson, stylist and fashion commentator.

She said the same for Diane Kruger in her white Chanel dress with black bands around the neck, waist and near the knees.

Flowers were another dominant theme at the Kodak Theatre in Los Angeles. Bullock's Marchesa gown had a delicate floral embroidery and Mo'Nique complemented her electric blue Tadashi Shoji asymmetrical dress with gardenias in her hair. She said she did it in the spirit of the late Hattie McDaniel, who had done the same in 1940.

Gabourey Sidibe's blue dress was decorated with silver beads in a floral pattern, and fashion designer-turned-director Tom Ford stuck a gardenia in his lapel.

A few looks seemed sure to generate chatter because they weren't standard-issue, red-carpet styles. Jennifer Lopez's sculpted, strapless pale-pink Armani Prive had a dramatic slit on one side and an exaggerated modern train that jutted out from her hip. Armani said the dress was inspired by the romance and mystery of the moon.

Charlize Theron also had a futuristic vibe in her amethyst gown by John Galliano for Dior with two folded rosettes not on the bustline but on the bust itself.

"Charlize's dress was really dramatic," said Stephenson. "Love it or hate it, you want to talk about it."

Carey Mulligan's full-skirted black Prada was adorned in unusual embroidery: tiny forks, knives and scissors. She said she didn't choose it to make a statement.

"I just thought it was really cool," she told the AP. "It's not a dress where I have to wear Spanx or anything, so I'm good."

Her earrings were 19th Century cascading diamond pendants by Fred Leighton.

Another fashion-forward look was Zoe Saldana's Givenchy gown with a sparkly light pink bodice and a lilac skirt that descended into tight ruffles in all shades of purple. Queen Latifah's one-shoulder Badgley Mischka was a lovely shade of pink and the mermaid shape "is the right way to dress a curvy woman," said Yalof Schwartz.

Vera Farmiga said her magenta fan-pleat strapless gown by Marchesa "reminds me of a flower in bloom." Her "Up in the Air" costar Anna Kendrick's blush-colored Elie Saab wasn't her first choice, but it was the right one, she said. "It's so young and pretty and it fits me so well."

Meryl Streep did an unexpected turn in bright white gown with a deep V neckline. Yalof Schwartz loved it. "With Meryl Streep, you used to not look at what she wore, but she's embracing fashion now."

Tina Fey, who scored a few fashion "don'ts" earlier this year, was much improved in her black, one-shouldered, leopard-lace Michael Kors.

Maggie Gyllenhaal wore something rarely seen on the awards circuit—a print. The blue-black-and-white gown by Dries van Noten had a tropical vibe.

"I love his clothes. They're sexy and unusual. He designed my wedding dress," she said. Her husband, Peter Sarsgaard, wore the tuxedo he bought for their wedding—designed by Tom Ford.

Rachel McAdams went the print route, too. Hers was a draped strapless in dusty shades of blue and gray. Nicole Richie's multicolored sequin gown by Reem Acra kept to the vintage vibe she favors, but was quite covered up compared to the rest of young Hollywood.

## NOTABLE QUOTES

Quotes from Sunday night's 82nd annual Academy Awards at the Kodak Theatre in Los Angeles:

"I want to thank the Academy for not considering Navi a foreign language."
**—Argentine director Juan Jose Campanella, after winning the award for best foreign language film.**

"I would like to thank the Academy for showing that it can be about the performance and not the politics. … Thank you so much to my amazing husband, Sidney. Thank you for showing me that sometimes you have to forgo doing what's popular in order to do what's right. And baby, you were so right."
**—Mo'Nique, after winning the Oscar for best supporting actress.**

"This is for everybody who works on the dream every day: precious boys and girls everywhere."
**—Geoffrey Fletcher, after winning the best adapted screenplay award for "Precious: Based on the Novel 'Push' by Sapphire."**

"Oscar and Penelope, that's an uber-Bingo."
**—Christoph Waltz, accepting the best supporting actor Oscar.**

"I had an eye-opening experience in Baghdad at the end of 2004 and I thought that the story of these guys who have one of the most dangerous jobs in the world would be an interesting way to look at the war in a broader sense."
**—Mark Boal, speaking backstage after winning the best original screenplay for "The Hurt Locker."**

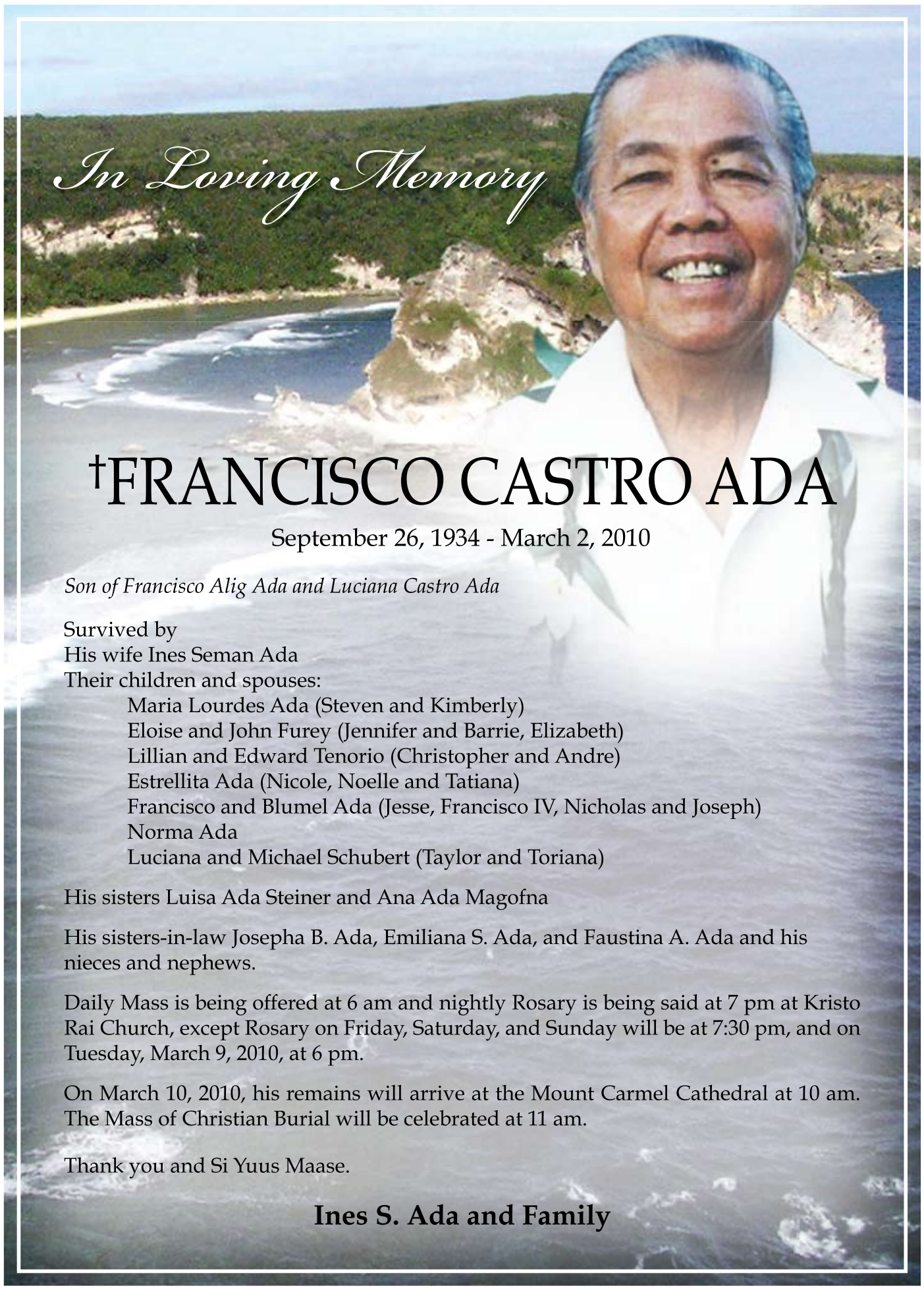
"Never did I dream that making a flip book out of my third-grade math book would lead to this."
**—Pete Docter, accepting the best animated feature film award for "Up."**

"Never once in my life did my parents say, 'What you're doing is a waste of time.' … I know there are kids out there that don't have that support system so if you're out there and you're listening, listen to me: You want to be creative? Get out there and do it, it's not a waste of time."
**—Michael Giacchino, after winning the award for best original score.**

"The biggest change this year, the best picture category has doubled. When that was announced, all of us in Hollywood thought the same thing: What's five times two?"
**—Oscars co-host Steve Martin.**

"It's like prom night for Hollywood. I'm really proud of myself for being here."
**—Gabourey Sidibe on the red carpet.**

"He could laugh at my bad back and I could laugh at his bad knees."
**—Helen Mirren on working with her "The Last Station" co-star Christopher Plummer.**



In Loving Memory
†FRANCISCO CASTRO ADA
September 26, 1934 - March 2, 2010
Son of Francisco Alig Ada and Luciana Castro Ada
Survived by
His wife Ines Seman Ada
Their children and spouses:
Maria Lourdes Ada (Steven and Kimberly)
Eloise and John Furey (Jennifer and Barrie, Elizabeth)
Lillian and Edward Tenorio (Christopher and Andre)
Estrellita Ada (Nicole, Noelle and Tatiana)
Francisco and Blumel Ada (Jesse, Francisco IV, Nicholas and Joseph)
Norma Ada
Luciana and Michael Schubert (Taylor and Toriana)
His sisters Luisa Ada Steiner and Ana Ada Magofna
His sisters-in-law Josepha B. Ada, Emiliana S. Ada, and Faustina A. Ada and his nieces and nephews.
Daily Mass is being offered at 6 am and nightly Rosary is being said at 7 pm at Kristo Rai Church, except Rosary on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday will be at 7:30 pm, and on Tuesday, March 9, 2010, at 6 pm.
On March 10, 2010, his remains will arrive at the Mount Carmel Cathedral at 10 am. The Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11 am.
Thank you and Si Yuus Maase.
Ines S. Ada and Family

# The popular Mr. Clooney and other Oscar vignettes

**LOS ANGELES** (AP)—There are many reasons why George Clooney is one of the most popular stars in Hollywood: the crinkles around his eyes when he smiles, his soothing voice and his deep brown eyes.

But he's also one of the most generous celebrities on the Oscars red carpet. He bounded across the red ropes Sunday to the bleachers with a pen in hand, ready to shake hands and sign autographs. The fans leaped out of their seats to get a glimpse of him, pressing toward the carpet that ran into the Kodak Theatre.

After he signed a woman's security badge, she held it up in the air triumphantly and fans cheered for her.

"That was super-duper nice. That's what they all should do," said Pauline An, a stay-at-home mom from Golden, Colo. "I talked to Mary Hart, shook George Clooney's hand and Jason Bateman waved to me. It's a good night."

■■■

**LOS ANGELES** (AP)—Now Ryan Seacrest knows: Meryl Streep is watching.

After noting that Seacrest predicted Sandra Bullock would win the Oscar for best actress, Streep went nose-to-nose Sunday with the E! red carpet host.

"I was watching you earlier," Streep said with mock gravity on her way into the ceremony at the Kodak Theatre.

The actress, who is nominated also for best actress for her performance in "Julia & Julie," chastised Seacrest for "cheerleading a little," but added: "That's all right."

Seacrest, a little stricken, responded: "I knew you were going to come and you were going to crush me."

Then Streep, referring to Bullock, gave in: "I'm in love with her, as is everyone in America. I kind of have been pulling for all the young gals."

Streep's nomination was her 16th. She won for "Kramer vs. Kramer" in 1980 and "Sophie's Choice" in 1983.

■■■

**LOS ANGELES** (AP)—The Oscars were a little bit country this year.

AP

George Clooney and Elisabetta Canalis arrive at the 82nd Academy Awards Sunday, March 7, 2010, in the Hollywood section of Los Angeles.

"Crazy Heart," which stars Jeff Bridges as an aging country music star, was the most obvious presence on the red carpet at Sunday's ceremony. Bridges was nominated for best actor, Maggie Gyllenhaal was nominated for best-supporting actress and the song "The Weary Kind" by Ryan Bingham and T-Bone Burnett was up for best song.

But Tim McGraw, co-star of the best-picture nominee "The Blind Side" was also in attendance with his wife, Faith Hill. McGraw plays the husband of Sandra Bullock's character in the film.

Miley Cyrus was also at the Kodak Theatre to present an award. She came with her mother, Leticia Cyrus, but not her father, Billy Ray Cyrus.

"Last time I was here, I was with my dad," the young pop star told E!'s Ryan Seacrest. "He kept stepping on my dress, so I'm hoping that doesn't happen again."

■■■

**LOS ANGELES** (AP)—In a throwback to more competitive days, Academy Award presenters rehearsed the line "and the winner is ..." instead of the blander "and the Oscar goes to ..." for Sunday's show.

The last time the language was used officially was for the 60th Academy Awards in 1988, when "The Last Emperor" won for best picture. The following year, show producer Allan Carr changed the wording, although some presenters ignored the new guidelines.

"His goal was to make it not seem as competitive," said Lucia Schultz, the motion picture academy's librarian. Other awards shows also followed suit.

Although academy staff would not confirm the change before Sunday's telecast, presenters have been using the phrasing all week. At rehearsals on Saturday, Tom Hanks noticed the change and said, "You're breaking the mold here guys."

During his rehearsal, he joked around saying, "The Saturday Oscar goes to ...," and "the winner of the fake Oscar is. ..."

# Martin, Baldwin prove 2 Oscar hosts better than 1

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Steve Martin and Alec Baldwin just might have a future in show biz. Teamed up to co-host this year's Oscarcast, they're offering a pleasant reminder that an often overstuffed, cumbersome TV shindig can be lighthearted fun.

That was the early verdict at the ABC-aired Oscar broadcast's midway point, at least, with these seasoned funnymen demonstrating that Hollywood's so-called biggest night doesn't have to be just a big giveaway.

Neil Patrick Harris (himself a go-to song-and-dance guy for hosting awards shows) started things off with a Vegas-style musical number—"No One Wants to Do It Alone"—to introduce the dual hosts, whom he saluted as "the biggest pair since Dolly Parton."

Then, with the glitz taken care of, Martin and Baldwin took to the stage to genially call out, poke fun at and generally play with members of the assorted glitterati.

Especially Meryl Streep.

"Everyone wants an Oscar, but they're very hard to get," Martin declared.

"Ballots are sent out to 6,000 members of the Academy," Baldwin explained. "And then, no matter what, they nominate Meryl Streep."

Martin added that Streep holds the record for most nominations as an actress—"or, as I like to think of it: most losses."

"And, oh, look," he went on, "there's that damn Helen Mirren," which inspired a terse correction from Baldwin: "Steve, that's DAME Helen Mirren."

Both purposefully donned 3-D glasses to confirm the identity of "Avatar" director James Cameron seated in the audience.

AP

Steve Martin and Alec Baldwin appear during the 82nd Academy Awards Sunday, March 7, 2010, in the Hollywood section of Los Angeles.

A bit later, Martin, an unfazed old pro, introduced presenters Amanda Seyfried and Miley Cyrus as "two young actresses who have no idea who we are."

Then Tina Fey was introduced as "the most beautiful, brilliant and talented woman in all of show business" by her "30 Rock" co-star Baldwin, who carefully specified, "I'm not just saying that because she revived my career."

Fittingly, the broadcast included a tribute to the late John Hughes, a filmmaker celebrated for his affectionate, knowing portraits of teens. Hughes died unexpectedly last summer.

A bit of movie background set the stage for the oft-short-changed category of best short films: Now-prominent feature directors like Taylor Hackford and David Frankel looked back on how their Oscar-winning short films served as a Hollywood launching pad.

This year's winner: "Logorama," whose producer, Nicolas Schmerkin, isn't exactly a household name. Yet.

Ben Stiller is, and he arrived on stage in full blue "Avatar" makeup to present the Oscar for (what else?) best makeup.

"The ironic thing is, 'Avatar' isn't even nominated," he noted.

Didn't matter. "Avatar" was on everybody's mind. But that was yet to come.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Alice in Wonderland
Friday 4:15 7:15 9:30
Saturday 1:15 4:15 7:15 9:30
Sunday 1:15 4:15 7:15
Mon thru Thurs 4:15 7:15
Johnny Depp, Anne Hathaway
Fantasy • Rated PG
Synopsis
Tim Burton takes a stab at Lewis Carroll's timeless tale of a young girl (Mia Wasikowska) lost within a fantasyland with this 3-D production of Alice in Wonderland. The Lion King's Linda Woolverton provides the script, with Hollywood heavyweights Richard Zanuck and Joe Roth heading up the production team. Burton veteran collaborator Johnny Depp co-stars as The Mad Hatter in the Walt Disney Productions picture.

Dear John
Friday 4:05 7:05 9:55
Saturday 1:05 4:05 7:05 9:55
Sunday 1:05 4:05 7:05
Mon thru Thurs 4:05 7:05
Channing Tatum, Amanda Seyfried
Drama • Rated PG 13
Synopsis
Director Lasse Hallström and screenwriter Jamie Linden collaborate to adapt author Nicholas Sparks' novel about a young soldier who falls for an idealistic college girl. Savannah Curtis (Amanda Seyfried) was on spring break when she first met John Tyree (Channing Tatum), who was home on temporary leave. For the smitten soldier it was practically love at first sight. Over the course of the next seven years, when each deployment seemed more treacherous than the last, the love letters that Savannah sent to John were one of the only things that kept him going.

Shutter Island
Friday 4:00 7:00 9:45
Saturday 1:00 4:00 7:00 9:45
Sunday 1:00 4:00 7:00
Mon thru Thurs 4:00 7:00
Leonardo DiCaprio, Mark Ruffalo
Thriller • Rated R
Synopsis
Mark Ruffalo and Leonardo DiCaprio team up as a pair of U.S. Marshals who travel to a secluded island off the coast of Massachusetts to search for an escaped mental patient, uncovering a web of deception along the way as they battle the forces of nature and a prison riot in this Martin Scorsese-helmed period picture. Laeta Kalogridis adapts Dennis Lehane's novel of the same name, with Paramount Pictures and Columbia Pictures splitting production and distribution duties.

The Lightning Thief
Friday 4:20 7:10 9:40
Saturday 1:30 4:20 7:10 9:40
Sunday 1:30 4:20 7:10
Mon thru Thurs 4:20 7:10
Logan Lerman, Pierce Brosnan
Fantasy • Rated PG

Cop Out
Friday 4:25 7:20 10:00
Saturday 1:25 4:25 7:20 10:00
Sunday 1:25 4:25 7:20
Mon thru Thurs 4:25 7:20
Bruce Willis, Tracy Morgan
Comedy • Rated R

The Wolfman
Friday 4:10 7:30 9:35
Saturday 1:20 4:10 7:30 9:35
Sunday 1:20 4:10 7:30
Mon thru Thurs 4:10 7:30
Benicio del Toro, Anthony Hopkins
Horror • Rated R

Valentine's Day
Friday 4:30 7:20 9:50
Saturday 1:10 4:30 7:20 9:50
Sunday 1:10 4:30 7:20
Mon thru Thurs 4:30 7:20
Julia Roberts, Anne Hathaway
Comedy • Rated PG 13

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# Mo'Nique is 5th black woman to win acting Oscar

**LOS ANGELES** (AP)—Mo'Nique became the fifth black woman to win an acting Oscar on Sunday night, 70 years after Hattie McDaniel became the first to do so for "Gone with the Wind."

The 42-year-old standup comedienne portrayed an abusive mother in "Precious: Based on the Novel 'Push' by Sapphire."

"I want to thank Miss Hattie McDaniel for enduring all she had to so that I would not have to," Mo'Nique said in accepting the Oscar. Her character, Mary Jones, is terrifying and violent and reveals her own brutalized past in the end.

Mo'Nique, who hosts The Mo'Nique Show on BET, was the overwhelming favorite in the run-up to the Oscars, having racked up supporting actress wins at the Golden Globes, Spirit Awards and the British Academy of Film and Television Arts Awards, among others.

In the supporting actress category, the only other black Academy Award winners were Jennifer Hudson for "Dreamgirls" (2006) and Whoopi Goldberg for "Ghost" (1990). Halle Berry is the only black Oscar winner in the best actress category, earning the honor for "Monster's Ball" (2001).

Seven black men have won acting awards, including Denzel Washington, who won best actor for both "Training Day" (2001) and "Glory" (1989).

Mo'Nique poses backstage with the Oscar for best performance by an actress in a supporting role for "Precious: Based on the Novel 'Push' by Sapphire" at the 82nd Academy Awards Sunday, March 7, 2010, in the Hollywood section of Los Angeles.

AP

# Paisley OK after on-stage tumble at SC concert

AP

In this Nov. 23, 2008 file photo, Brad Paisley poses in the press room at the American Music Awards in Los Angeles.

**CHARLESTON, S.C.** (AP)—Brad Paisley is recovering after he tripped on stage and took a tumble during a concert in South Carolina.

Spokeswoman Darlene Bieber said in a news release that the country star was singing his encore finale—"Alcohol"—when he fell Saturday night, but he got back up and finished his show. He was checked out at a Charleston hospital and released early Sunday morning.

Paisley was left with only some bad bruises, but he wrote on his Twitter page that he "hit hard. And I mean freaking hard."

The 37-year-old kept fans updated with several tweets on the Web site, quipping that doctors told him he "was a very brave boy."

Paisley, a native of West Virginia, was performing in Charleston to promote his latest album, "American Saturday Night."

# Wonder 'breathless' as he gets French award

**PARIS** (AP)—It's taken nearly 30 years, but Stevie Wonder has finally received his medal for being named into France's prestigious National Order of Arts and Letters.

The Motown great was in the French capital to perform and be honored at France's biggest musical awards show Saturday.

Wonder said: "All this in one day, it's almost too much for me. I'm breathless."

Culture Minister Frederic Mitterrand riffed off several of the pop star's hits at a Paris ceremony.

"I just called to say 'we love you'," the minister said, referring to the French people.

One of Mitterrand's predecessors in 1981 named Wonder as a "Commander" in the order, its highest rank. Officials said Saturday that scheduling conflicts had delayed Wonder's formal decoration.

# 'Alice' opens with $116.3 million, a 3-D record

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Tim Burton and Johnny Depp's trip down the rabbit hole drew huge crowds, as "Alice in Wonderland" earned a whopping $116.3 million in its opening weekend—a record for a 3-D film.

The surprisingly huge total easily surpassed all other films in release and gave Walt Disney Studios an even bigger opening than that of the hugely popular 3-D film "Avatar." It also marked the biggest opening weekend for a non-sequel.

"This is just one of those cultural phenomenons that has caught everybody's interest," said Chuck Viane, Disney's president of distribution. "They don't come like this very often."

The film beat forecasts that ranged between $65 million-$75 million, and the surprising results added some intrigue to Oscar Sunday. Before the weekend, Disney and 20th Century Fox competed over the available 3-D ready screens; screens outfitted for 3-D are rapidly rising, but still amount to fewer than 4,000 in the U.S. and Canada.

Before "Alice," many of those screens were still dedicated to Fox's box-office behemoth, "Avatar," which is up for nine Academy Awards on Sunday, including best picture.

In its 12th week of release, "Avatar" earned $7.7 million over the weekend, bringing its cumulative domestic total to $720.2 million.

Asked whether fewer 3-D and IMAX screens hurt "Avatar," Chris Aronson, head of distribution for Fox, said, "No question."

"Are we disappointed? Sure," said Aronson. "But there are certain market forces that are beyond anything we can do. To have an 11-week window is pretty much unheard of. It certainly allowed this movie to be discovered and witnessed by so many people."

"Avatar" isn't disappearing, though, and it can be expected to regain 3-D and IMAX screens, especially if it wins best picture.

"We'll have that negotiation tomorrow morning with exhibition, without a doubt," said Aronson.

1. "**Alice in Wonderland,**" $116.3 million.
2. "**Brookyn's Finest,**" $13.5 million.
3. "**Shutter Island,**" $13.3 million.
4. "**Cop Out,**" $9.1 million.
5. "**Avatar,**" $7.7 million.
6. "**The Crazies,**" $7 million.
7. "**Percy Jackson & the Olympians: The Lightning Thief,**" $5.1 million.
8. "**Valentine's Day,**" $4.3 million.
9. "**Crazy Heart,**" $3.4 million.
10. "**Dear John,**" $2.9 million.

It also seemed likely that "Alice" benefited from the "Avatar"-effect in galvanizing audiences for 3-D movies. "Alice in Wonderland" is the first film released in 3-D since James Cameron's epic. "Alice" was shot in 2-D, but transferred to 3-D in post-production.

"In the wake of the impact of `Avatar,' there's a whole new audience that's been indoctrinated to 3-D," said Paul Dergarabedian, box-office analyst for Hollywood.com. "That paid off big for `Alice in Wonderland.'"

The weekend's second best performer at the box-office was Overture's "Brooklyn's Finest," Antoine Fuqua's gritty police thriller, which earned $13.5 million in its first weekend, according to studio estimates.

Martin Scorsese's "Shutter Island" for Paramount followed closely with $13.3 million in its third week of release, bringing its cumulative total to $95.8 million. Warner Bros.'s comedy "Cop Out" came in fourth, adding $9.1 million for a two-week total of $32.4 million.

But "Alice" thoroughly dominated the weekend, surprising even Disney. Worldwide, it took in $210.3 million.

It was a record release for the first quarter of the year, typically a time of lower box-office expectations and critically acclaimed Oscar contenders. The previous first quarter record was Mel Gibson's "Passion of the Christ," which opened with $83.8 million in Feb. 2004.

"We went into Friday thinking that we really had a big hit with us, and then all of a sudden the numbers started to roll in," said Viane. "Alice" went on to make $41 million on Friday alone.

"We said, 'Oh my gosh. This is bigger than any of us could have anticipated," said Viane.

Though reviews were mostly respectfully negative, much of the film's draw was surely in teaming director Burton and his frequent collaborator, Depp, who plays the Mad Hatter. It also presented moviegoers with a 3-D updating of Lewis Carroll's beloved classic. Though at times dark, it gained a PG rating from the MPAA (for, among other things, "a smoking caterpillar"), which meant a large number of kids could attend.

But it proved once again how significant the draw of 3-D is to moviegoers. The technology repeatedly has inflated box-office grosses for everything from "Avatar" to "Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs."

"Alice" also played across 188 IMAX screens in North America and gave IMAX its best opening ever, with $11.9 million domestically. That beat the previous record of $9.5 million set by "Avatar."

IMAX chairman and president Greg Foster said the huge success of "Alice" was unexpected, but that "Avatar" would regain some of those IMAX screens, whether or not it wins best picture.

"The momentum on 3-D is so massive right now," said Foster. "They were ready for a new movie. They were ready for a new, cool 3-D experience."

Though most of the Oscar contenders weren't a big factor at the box-office Sunday, the boffo performance of "Alice" proved the good health of Hollywood, said Dergarabedian.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Hollywood.com. Final figures will be released Monday.

# Man has wife's OK to look, but not touch, other women

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

**DEAR ABBY**: Regarding your answer to "Yoo-Hoo, I'm Over Here!" (Jan. 10), who was bothered by her husband's constant leering at women, you've got to be kidding. Men have been looking at young women since the beginning of time. My husband and his friends hold "office hours" every morning at our neighborhood coffeehouse. I've told him as long as he "touches" only with his eyes, there won't be a problem.

My husband and his pals are not "creepy old men." They are leaders in our community—doing what they can to make the world a better place, while enjoying the scenery. There must be something terribly wrong with "Yoo-Hoo's" marriage if she's contemplating divorce because of this.

KEEPING IT REAL IN TAMPA

**DEAR KEEPING IT REAL: I told "Yoo-Hoo" that from her description, her husband's behavior seemed obsessive, that it showed a lack of sensitivity to her feelings and I recommended marriage counseling. Responses from my readers were varied. Read on:**

■ ■ ■

**DEAR ABBY**: In marriage we promise to love and cherish our wives. That is not what "Yoo-Hoo's" husband is doing. It is disrespectful to her, his supposed one and only, and to the women he is ogling. When a man stares at another woman, it is not just looking. He is fantasizing about her. And sometimes it doesn't stop there.

TOM IN HALF MOON BAY, CALIF.

■ ■ ■

**DEAR ABBY**: I have been happily married for 18 years, we have four children, and I can attest that all men do NOT do that. My husband isn't blind to a beautiful woman, but he is respectful of my feelings and has enough self-respect to not openly drool over any women in my presence.

Unfortunately, we do know "Yoo-Hoo's" husband's type. We have seen "men" like him gawking open-mouthed at the teenage girls wearing tight jeans at school. We have also made careful note of who they are and who their children are. If an invitation comes for one of our girls to visit their kids at their house, the answer is always NO.

"Yoo-Hoo's" husband has a problem. The sooner she realizes it, the better.

WATCHFUL MOM IN BUTLER, PA.

■ ■ ■

**DEAR ABBY**: You said that if "Yoo-Hoo's" husband were 20 years younger, his behavior would be chalked up to "boys will be boys." Boys of all ages can be respectful of women—the ones they're dating or are married to, and the ones who do not want to be ogled by strangers. Appreciating attractive people without being creepy is something people of all ages and both genders are capable of. Please don't perpetuate this stereotype.

BROOKE IN HILLIARD, OHIO

■ ■ ■

**DEAR ABBY**: The way she describes her husband's behavior with women sounds like he may have a sexual addiction. If so, he is powerless over his behavior and will do anything to justify his addiction. It's a waste of time asking him to change unless he goes into recovery for it. Other signs of this addiction are affairs, frequenting bars, using Internet chat rooms and looking at porn.

KNOWS FROM EXPERIENCE

■ ■ ■

**DEAR ABBY**: I wonder how that man would feel if he caught someone his age leering at HIS daughter? Maybe then he would think twice about what he is doing.

DIVORCED IN KANSAS CITY

■ ■ ■

**DEAR ABBY**: Women look, too. I look! I think it's healthy to be aware of the people around you. But that doesn't mean we have to be obvious about it—certainly not so obvious that we are inconsiderate of the people we are with.

That said, the other side of the coin is: Did he act like this when they were dating? Did she know what she was getting when she married him? As they say, a leopard doesn't change its spots.

IRENE IN SAN ANTONIO

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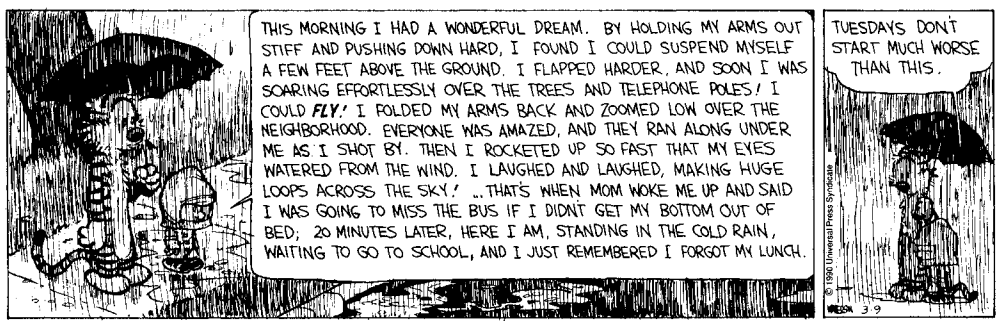
*Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.*

# Pastimes

## Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


THIS MORNING I HAD A WONDERFUL DREAM. BY HOLDING MY ARMS OUT STIFF AND PUSHING DOWN HARD, I FOUND I COULD SUSPEND MYSELF A FEW FEET ABOVE THE GROUND. I FLAPPED HARDER, AND SOON I WAS SOARING EFFORTLESSLY OVER THE TREES AND TELEPHONE POLES! I COULD FLY! I FOLDED MY ARMS BACK AND ZOOMED LOW OVER THE NEIGHBORHOOD. EVERYONE WAS AMAZED, AND THEY RAN ALONG UNDER ME AS I SHOT BY. THEN I ROCKETED UP SO FAST THAT MY EYES WATERED FROM THE WIND. I LAUGHED AND LAUGHED, MAKING HUGE LOOPS ACROSS THE SKY! ..THAT'S WHEN MOM WOKE ME UP AND SAID I WAS GOING TO MISS THE BUS IF I DIDN'T GET MY BOTTOM OUT OF BED; 20 MINUTES LATER, HERE I AM, STANDING IN THE COLD RAIN, WAITING TO GO TO SCHOOL, AND I JUST REMEMBERED I FORGOT MY LUNCH.
TUESDAYS DON'T START MUCH WORSE THAN THIS.
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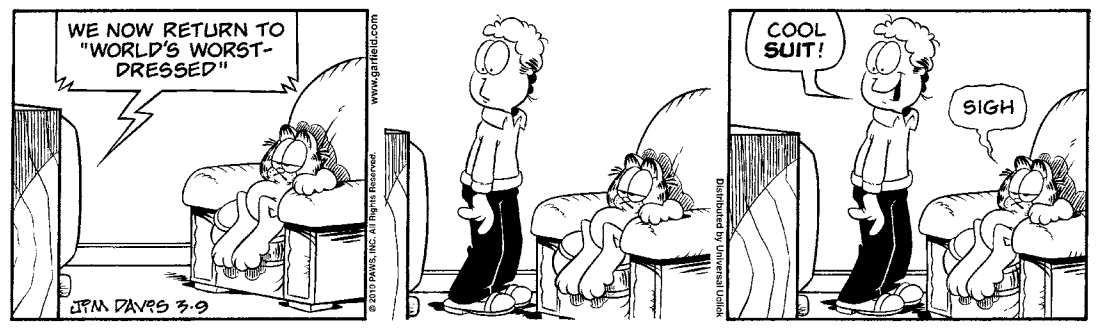
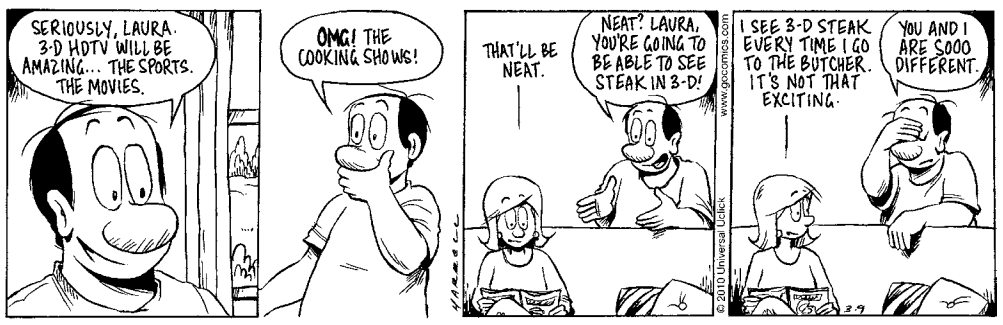
## Garfield®

By Jim Davis




## Adam@home

By Bryan Basset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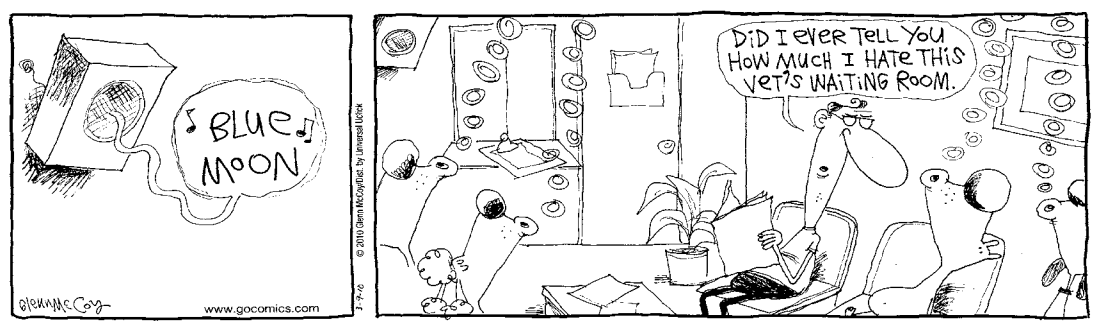
## The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy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## CROSSWORD

*By Eugene Sheffer*

**ACROSS**
1 Laurel or Musial
5 Spring month
8 Rolling stone's lack
12 Novice
13 Id counterpart
14 Killer whale
15 Related (to)
16 World War I infantryman
18 Warning signal
20 Sail supports
21 Have a bug
22 NASA deviation
23 Cheer up
26 Fool
30 Bill's co-adventurer
31 Toast topper
32 Ultra-modernist
33 Reliable source of income
36 Birth-related
38 A billion years
39 Triumphed
40 Pound fraction
43 Glossy coating
47 "Is it bigger than a —?"
49 Neighborhood
50 Brewer's oven
51 Hearty quaff
52 Oodles
53 Otherwise
54 Chaps
55 Break suddenly

**DOWN**
1 Luminary
2 Youngster
3 Desert-like
4 Low-calorie, maybe
5 Hero's award
6 Very enthusiastic
7 Thee
8 Hudson River feeder
9 Spheres
10 Highlander
11 Emulates Simon?
17 2008 TARP recipient
19 Big fib
22 Thanksgiving veggie
23 "Yada, yada, yada" (Abbr.)
24 Meadow
25 Billboards
26 Mandible
27 Pismire
28 Vast expanse
29 Scale member
31 Stewart or Voight
34 Underworld goddess
35 Unisex, as dorms
36 Neither mate
37 Chronicles
39 Lustrously smooth
40 Reed instrument
41 Europe/Asia border river
42 Capone foe
43 Field mouse
44 Press
45 — good example
46 Padlock holder
48 Emeril's outcry

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| I | N | N | S | ■ | S | O | D | A | J | E | R | K |
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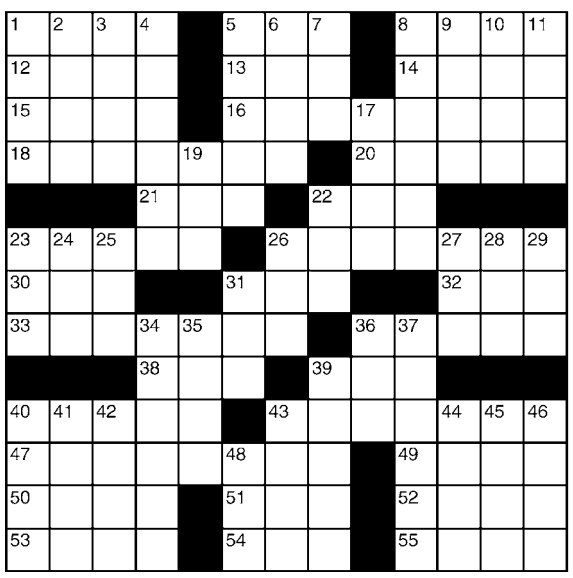
| K | I | S | S | ■ | E | A | T | ■ | R | A | T | S |

Yesterday's answer 3-9



**STUMPED?** For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY**: Bow Wow, 23; Emmanuel Lewis, 39; Juliette Binoche, 46; Mickey Gilley, 74

**Happy Birthday**: This is a great year to look at your options and find the best course of action. Professional gains are possible if you take the necessary actions. Added discipline and a broader outlook will contribute to your success and lead you to a challenge that can turn into something spectacular. Your numbers are 9, 13, 18, 20, 25, 31, 42

**ARIES** (*March 21-April 19*): Shake off anyone's attempt to make you feel bad. An emotional response will only give the person you are at odds with the upper hand. If you are professional and do your job to the best of your ability, you will get ahead. ✪✪

**TAURUS** (*April 20-May 20*): Think big, follow your heart and don't be afraid of what others may think or say. In the end, you will win the support you need and enhance your reputation. Don't be distracted by someone's jealousy. ✪✪✪✪

**GEMINI** (*May 21-June 20*): Don't be too sure of yourself. A problem with love, money and a job you are working on will make it difficult to meet your deadline. You'll be moving fast but, in doing so, you will make unnecessary mistakes. Empty promises are apparent. ✪✪✪

**CANCER** (*June 21-July 22*): Don't let emotional troubles hinder your personal judgment or your professional goals. You are likely to take things the wrong way or give the wrong impression. Once you make a transition, everything will get back to normal. ✪✪✪

**LEO** (*July 23-Aug. 22*): You will be enthusiastic about your plans and will talk boldly about the things you want to do. A trip will not be without problems but it will bring you in contact with someone or something that inspires you. ✪✪✪

**VIRGO** (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): You need to interact with people who will spark your enthusiasm and your creative drive. Someone you meet along the way will interest you in a partnership that can complete your life personally or professionally. ✪✪✪✪✪

**LIBRA** (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Put any troubles you face behind you and get out with friends. You can't change what's going on at home, so avoid getting into deep discussions that will only make matters worse. Solutions can be found if you distance yourself. ✪✪

**SCORPIO** (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Make alterations to your personal life and your living arrangements. A residential move will give you a new lease on life and help you to revive some of your old ideas. A long-time partnership will benefit from changes you make. ✪✪✪✪

**SAGITTARIUS** (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Nothing will be easy to resolve, especially if you are having difficulty getting along with others. Promises you may not have fulfilled will come back to haunt you. Changing your vocation will not rid you of the problem you are facing. ✪✪✪

**CAPRICORN** (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Give more time to the people and things you enjoy most. You deserve a break and the opportunity to fulfill your dreams. A creative idea you have will be shared with someone who can turn it into a masterpiece. ✪✪✪

## EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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**AQUARIUS** (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): You have to face any problems directly. As soon as you try to skirt issues or ignore the facts, someone who is watching will confront you with questions. A change at home may be daunting but will turn out OK. ✪✪✪

**PISCES** (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Don't waste time when it comes to financial or personal matters. Be ready to take advantage of anything that leads to a good partnership or financial gain. Love is in the stars and the chance to bring greater stability and security to your life is evident. ✪✪✪✪

**Birthday Baby**: You are caring, sensitive and have a unique way of expressing your opinions. You are creative, innovative and willing to try new things.

*Eugenia's Web sites:* ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

## SUDOKU

**Conceptis Sudoku** *By Dave Green*

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 3 | 7 | 4 | | | | 5 |
| 2 | | | | | 6 | 9 | 3 | |
| | | | | | | | 7 | |
| | | 4 | | | 7 | 3 | 1 | |
| | | | | 6 | | | | |
| | 6 | 9 | 4 | | | 7 | | |
| | 5 | | | | | | | |
| | 7 | 1 | 6 | | | | | 2 |
| 4 | | | | 3 | 2 | 8 | | |

Difficulty Level ★★ 3/09

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

**Saturday's SUDOKU Answer**

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 9 | 4 | 2 | 7 | 6 | 8 | 3 | 5 | 1 |
| 5 | 8 | 6 | 3 | 9 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 7 |
| 3 | 7 | 1 | 5 | 4 | 2 | 6 | 8 | 9 |
| 4 | 5 | 7 | 6 | 3 | 9 | 1 | 2 | 8 |
| 6 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 8 | 7 | 5 | 9 | 4 |
| 1 | 9 | 8 | 4 | 2 | 5 | 7 | 6 | 3 |
| 2 | 3 | 5 | 9 | 7 | 4 | 8 | 1 | 6 |
| 7 | 1 | 9 | 8 | 5 | 6 | 4 | 3 | 2 |
| 8 | 6 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 9 | 7 | 5 |

Difficulty Level ★ 3/08

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## WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

**HOW TO PLAY:** All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

**TRICKY TROUBLES** **Solution: 9 letters**

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| R | S | A | S | W | I | N | D | L | E | T | P | E | M | S |
| E | O | H | A | Z | Y | E | B | K | N | U | S | A | T | W |
| V | L | R | L | K | C | S | D | E | N | I | D | N | R | I |
| I | V | D | R | O | S | I | I | F | R | I | O | R | I | T |
| E | E | U | D | E | G | R | A | P | U | I | H | S | A | C |
| C | M | E | N | I | O | I | R | P | T | S | E | T | L | H |
| E | B | Y | R | S | R | U | C | C | U | N | N | I | N | G |
| D | L | L | I | K | S | U | I | M | C | Z | I | W | I | M |
| S | E | D | U | S | N | D | E | O | Y | T | Z | A | G | A |
| Y | P | D | E | R | A | L | M | L | B | S | W | L | R | Y |
| D | E | U | A | R | B | P | I | I | G | S | T | I | E | B |
| U | G | V | T | O | L | W | A | R | N | N | C | E | S | E |
| O | E | N | R | E | L | B | M | U | J | D | A | U | R | T |
| L | O | P | X | U | Ⓢ | Ⓢ | Ⓔ | Ⓜ | U | O | U | T | R | Y |
| C | H | E | A | T | C | S | X | E | L | P | R | E | P | E |

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Blur, Brain, Cheat, Cloudy, Complex, Contradiction, Cunning, Curve, Deceive, Decode, Disorient, Error, Guess, Hard, Hazy, Jumble, Loaded, Logic, Maybe, Mess, Mind, Murky, Mystery, Obscure, Perplex, Problem, Puzzle, Riddle, Rigid, Setup, Skill, Slyness, Solve, Surprise, Swindle, Switch, Tangle, Test, Think, Trap, Trial, Turn, Twist, Unfair, Unravel, Warn, Wily, Wits

**Yesterday's Answer: Politics**

**Treasury** 7 Send check or money order for $10.95 each plus $3.25 postage and handling each ($14.20 total each, U.S. funds only) for the first volume, $1.50 p&h for each additional volume, to Universal Uclick, Attn: Wonderword, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, Mo. 64106 or call toll-free, 1-800-642-6480 Order online at upuzzles.com.

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WHATZIT Solution: Fish fingers

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Saipan Tribune

Vicente M. Dela Cruz and
Carmelita Q. Dela Cruz
P.O. Box 520158, Tinian, MP
(670) 433-8353

*pro se*

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

| | |
|---|---|
| IN RE THE MATTER OF THE PETITION TO APPOINT GENERAL GUARDIANSHIP FOR: | FCD GU CIVIL ACTION NO. 10-119 (T) |
| JOSEPH BLAS, MANUEL QUITUGUA, MALINAO PALACIOS, AUGUSTIN PALACIOS and JOHN CHRISTIAN PALACIOS, Minor Children, By: | NOTICE OF HEARING |
| VICENTE M. DELA CRUZ and CARMELITA Q. DELA CRUZ, Petitioners. | |

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on March 19, 2010, at 10:00 a.m. in Courtroom Tinian, before Associate Judge Ramona V. Manglona.

Dated this 2nd day of March, 2010.

/s/ Bernadita Sablan
Clerk of Court

**COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY**
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**JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT # 02-2010**

**Opening date: March 9, 2010** **Closing date: March 23, 2010**

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) announces the following job vacancies:

**Position:** **(1) Tinian Airport/Seaport Manager**
**(1) General Maintenance-I (Tinian Seaport)**

Employment Application must be accompanied with a copy of all required diploma/certificates and/or official transcripts, original copy of recent police record not more that six (6) months old, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 26 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. Failure to provide any of the required documents may result in automatic disqualification. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening. The deadline for submission of applications is no later than **4:30 p.m., Tuesday, March 23, 2010**.

**Tinian Airport/Seaport Manager:** Any combination equivalent to graduation from high school (or G.E.D.) and a four (4) year degree from an accredited US college or university with no less than seven (7) years of progressively responsible experience in a US international airport and seaport operations of which four (4) years pertain to supervisory experience. Shall have no record of felony or criminal conviction.

**General Maintenance-I (Tinian Seaport):** Graduation from high school (or G.E.D.) with a certification of training in a related field. Shall have no record of criminal conviction.

Detailed information on qualifications and position description for the above positions may be picked up along with the application form during regular working hours at the CPA's Office (2nd Floor) of the Saipan International Airport, Arrival Wing, or may be downloaded by visiting CPA's website at www.cpa.gov.mp. For more information, please contact Ms. Addy C. Manahane by email at acmanahane@cpa.gov.mp or by phone at (670) 237-6500.

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**/s/EDWARD M. DELEON-GUERRERO**
**Executive Director**

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*Saipan Tribune's* Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

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*Saipan Tribune* also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 6-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $27 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

| ADS | (PRINT) | COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE) |
|---|---|---|
| • 3-Liner | $15 | $27 |
| • 5-Liner | $24 | $39 |
| • 3-Liner with picture | $24 | $42 |
| • 5-Liner with picture | $36 | $57 |

### ADVERTISING DEADLINE

**Classified Ads**

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

### CANCELLATION

**Classified Ads**

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

### REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

### CHECK YOUR ADS

*Saipan Tribune* will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

### ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

PINKIES

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**Find today's solution in this section**

# Magic get revenge, top Lakers in finals rematch

**ORLANDO, Florida** (AP)—Vince Carter had 25 points, and Dwight Howard finished with 15 points and 16 rebounds as the Orlando Magic beat the Lakers 96-94 on Sunday to hand Los Angeles its first three-game losing streak of the Pau Gasol-Kobe Bryant Era.

Carter made his first 13 free throws and kept the Magic in control, showing signs of why Orlando made the move for the eight-time All-Star after losing to the Lakers in last year's finals.

Bryant had 34 points and Gasol added 20 points for the Lakers, walking to the locker room distraught and dejected after their latest loss. And with quite a different feeling than that champagne-soaked championship celebration last June.

AP

Orlando Magic center Dwight Howard (12) goes up for a shot against Los Angeles Lakers forward Pau Gasol (16), of Spain, during the first half of an NBA basketball game in Orlando, Fla., Sunday, March 7, 2010.

### Celtics 86, Wizards 83

At Boston, Ray Allen scored a game-high 25 points, including a go-ahead 3-pointer with 17.1 seconds remaining, as Boston rallied past Washington.

Boston trailed 79-66 with 6:11 remaining and responded with a 20-4 run to close out the game with eight points from Allen and six from guard Rajon Rondo.

Al Thornton scored 24 points to lead the Wizards and Andray Blatche added 23 for Washington.

### Pistons 110, Rockets 107, OT

At Auburn, Michigan, Tayshaun Prince scored a season-high 29 points to help Detroit snap a six-game losing streak.

Richard Hamilton added 22 points for Detroit, while Kevin Martin had 27 points for Houston and Aaron Brooks scored 25. Martin and Brooks, though, both missed key 3-point attempts in the last 10 seconds of overtime.

### Nuggets 118, Trail Blazers 106

At Denver, Carmelo Anthony scored 30 points—his third consecutive game with at least 30 points—as Denver beat Portland for its third straight victory.

J.R. Smith added 22 points, Chauncey Billups had 21 points and Nene 14 for the Nuggets.

Jerryd Bayless' 24 points led the Trail Blazers, who saw their three-game winning streak snapped.

Andre Miller had 19 points and LaMarcus Aldridge added 16.

### Thunder 108, Kings 102

At Sacramento, California, Kevin Durant had 27 points and eight rebounds as Oklahoma City beat Sacramento.

The road victory was the seventh in nine games for the Thunder, who are 3-1 against the Kings this season.

Tyreke Evans had 24 points and seven assists for the Kings and Carl Landry had 20 points and eight rebounds. Francisco Garcia scored 14 points and Jason Thompson added 11.

The Kings have lost two straight and three of four in falling to 15-15 this season at home.

Russell Westbrook scored 13 of his 21 points in the fourth quarter for the Thunder, who have won two straight and five of six. James Harden scored all 14 of his points in the first half, while Jeff Green added 12 points.

### 76ers 114, Raptors 101

At Toronto, Thaddeus Young scored a career-high 32 points and Jrue Holiday had 21 as Philadelphia beat Toronto to snap a five-game losing streak.

Andre Iguodala had 16 points and 10 assists and Elton Brand had 12 points and nine rebounds for the 76ers. Louis Williams added 12 points.

Jarrett Jack had 20 points and nine assists for Toronto, which has lost five of six. Chris Bosh had 12 points and 12 rebounds in his return to the lineup.

## NBA BRIEFS

### Blazers center Przybilla ruptures tendon again

DENVER (AP)—Portland Trail Blazers center Joel Przybilla, already out for the season, slipped while taking a shower at his home and ruptured the right patella tendon again that he tore in December, team officials said. In a news conference prior to Sunday's game against the Denver Nuggets, Trail Blazers coach Nate McMillan said Przybilla would undergo surgery in the next few days to repair the tendon for a second time. He underwent a similar procedure Dec. 24, two days after he originally ruptured the tendon during a game against the Dallas Mavericks, ending his season. "He will have to go through this all over again," McMillan said. Przybilla was at his home in Milwaukee where he was in the midst of an injury rehabilitation program, when he slipped in the shower on Saturday morning. He returned to Portland on Sunday to undergo an MRI, which showed the tendon had again ruptured. "We were told a week prior to this that he was doing great," McMillan said. "I'm sure Joel was starting to feel better and got a little bit more comfortable. It's one of those situations where you slip in the tub and the thing buckles." McMillan said it was too early to tell if the setback would affect his return next season. "I don't know," he said.

### Nuggets' Martin out against Blazers

**DENVER** (AP)—Nuggets forward Kenyon Martin was ruled out of Sunday night's game against the Portland Trail Blazers because of continuing left knee soreness. Concerns about the injury have led to a scheduled consultation Monday with doctors to determine its severity and further treatment options. Martin has been playing through persistent pain and swelling in the knee in the last few weeks but the condition, which the team has described as chronic patella tendinitis, apparently has worsened in recent days. Martin, who missed his second consecutive game, underwent an MRI late last week and doctors spent the weekend reviewing the results in advance of their meeting with Martin on Monday. Nuggets coach George Karl, speaking at a pregame news conference, said he expected Martin's status would become clear after his meeting with the doctors. Martin has been enjoying one of his most productive seasons and has been instrumental in the success of the Nuggets, the Northwest Division leader. He's averaging 11.8 points and 9.6 rebounds in 55 games this season. The Nuggets also were without guard Ty Lawson, who was held out of a fourth consecutive game because of a bruised left shoulder.

### Pistons' Stuckey misses game, status still unclear

**AUBURN HILLS, Mich.** (AP)—Detroit Pistons guard Rodney Stuckey missed Sunday's game against the Houston Rockets, two days after collapsing during a game in Cleveland. Pistons coach John Kuester said that Stuckey is continuing to undergo tests in Detroit. He was released from the Cleveland Clinic Saturday after being kept overnight for observation. Stuckey passed out on the Pistons bench during a time-out, and was taken from the arena in an ambulance. He missed two games last season after experiencing dizziness at halftime of a game. Pistons center Ben Wallace also missed the Rockets game with a knee injury.

# Jaguars sign 2-time Pro Bowl Aaron Kampman

**JACKSONVILLE, Fla.** (AP)—The Jacksonville Jaguars used veterans, rookies, former first-round draft picks and a few undrafted guys in hopes of generating consistent pass rush last season. Even with different schemes, various blitzes and some new faces, nothing really worked.

The Jaguars finished with a franchise-low 14 sacks in 2009, the fifth-lowest total in NFL history.

Owner Wayne Weaver, general manager Gene Smith and coach Jack Del Rio all vowed to revamp the defensive line, knowing the team stood little chance of making the playoffs without more quarterback pressure.

They may have found a solution with two-time Pro Bowler Aaron Kampman. The 30-year-old defensive end signed with the Jaguars on Sunday, giving the small-market franchise a big-time boost to their pass-rush woes.

Jacksonville, which also elevated its special teams with the signing of Kassim Osgood this weekend, targeted Kampman before free agency began Friday. The Jaguars hoped to land Kampman or former Tennessee defensive end Kyle Vanden Bosch, who signed a four-year contract worth $26 million with Detroit.

Kampman's deal could be similar. Although he is coming off a torn anterior cruciate ligament in his left knee, Kampman is a year younger than Vanden Bosch, and despite playing in just nine games in 2009, finished with half a sack more than his counterpart.

The signing of Kampman also sent a strong message to former first-round draft pick Derrick Harvey and second-rounder Quentin Groves, who both struggled in their two seasons.

Kampman, who has 54 sacks, emerged as one of the NFL's elite pass rushers in recent years, recording a total of 37 sacks from 2006-08, but struggled in 2009.

Under new defensive coordinator Dom Capers last season, Kampman was asked to switch from a 4-3 defensive end to 3-4 outside linebacker - a significant change that would require him to learn the nuances of rushing the quarterback from a standup position instead of as a down lineman, and occasionally drop into pass coverage.

While Kampman never publicly complained about changing positions and coaches said his work ethic never wavered, it was clear that he wasn't particularly enthusiastic about making the switch.

Kampman gradually became more comfortable with his new position but wasn't nearly as productive as a pass rusher, tallying only 3.5 sacks before his injury.

Kampman sat out Green Bay's Nov. 15 win over Dallas because of a concussion—the first game he missed because of an injury since 2003. He returned to face San Francisco the following week, but sustained a season-ending knee injury.

Packers coaches said they hoped to re-sign Kampman in the offseason, and expressed optimism that he would continue to progress as an outside linebacker. But Kampman was widely expected to field free agent offers from 4-3 teams.

"Obviously I've gotten used to this 3-4," Kampman said in January. "I didn't get a chance to get a full year to critique and say, 'Hey, this is great.' But I was starting to get more comfortable with it. Having said that, I have a lot of experience in the 4-3. I think that I can do both."

Kampman had surgery Dec. 4, and said in January he was "very encouraged" by his progress in rehabilitation and expects to be ready to hit the field in training camp.

"Things have gone very, very well," Kampman said. "I'm very thankful."

# Villegas runs away to win Honda Classic

The Honda Classic

**PALM BEACH GARDENS, Fla.** (AP)—Camilo Villegas was checking his phone constantly on the driving range, barely bothering to hit any balls and instead seeking updates on how his brother was doing at a Nationwide Tour event in their native Colombia.

As Villegas showed all week, practice can be overrated.

Villegas shot a final-round 68 to win the Honda Classic by five shots Sunday over Anthony Kim, his third PGA Tour victory and a perfect way to cap a week that began with one celebration and ended with another.

He finished at 13-under 267, the lowest 72-hole score since the Honda moved to PGA National in 2007, four shots better than Y.E. Yang's winning total a year ago. And Villegas made it look easy most of the way, too, capping his day with a 20-footer for birdie, then raising both hands skyward.

"I've just had good vibes in me all week," said Villegas, who climbed to No. 12 in the world rankings.

Those vibes were never better than Sunday.

He led by only two after Vijay Singh made a 45-foot birdie putt at the par-3 fifth, but three straight birdies—starting with a 25-footer on No. 8—sent Villegas to 15 under and six shots clear of the field.

Good thing he had that cushion, because the putter stopped working after that.

Fortunately for Villegas, no one made much of a run.

"It's very special," Villegas said. "I'm just very privileged to do what I do. But trust me, it's tough. These guys are good. That is so true. Those guys are good."

He missed short par putts on 11 and 12, three-putted from 50 feet on the par-3 15th for another bogey, but never lost control of the lead and ended up pocketing the $1.008 million winner's share.

Steely eyed for most of the day, Villegas finally acknowledged the crowd as he walked up 18, waving and secure in the knowledge that he was getting his first victory since the Tour Championship in 2008.

"Fair play to him," Justin Rose said. "It was nice to even be in a position to kind of think that way, no doubt."

Kim shot 67 and Rose had by far the best round of the day, a 64 that was three shots better than anyone else. Paul Casey (67) and Vijay Singh (72) tied for fourth, seven shots back.

"I hung in there," said Kim, who got his best finish since tying for second at the season-opening Mercedes-Benz Championship in 2009. "I still haven't put four good ones together but I'm trying as hard as I can to get there. I'm working on the right things and I'm sure it will come."

Villegas didn't even play a practice round at PGA National this week, after a travel schedule that he somehow found exhilarating.

After finishing tied for eighth at the Phoenix Open, Villegas headed back to his native Colombia on Monday for a slew of events - sponsor dinner, youth clinic, pre-tournament party, all within about a 36-hour window—to help open the Nationwide Tour's Pacific Rubiales Bogota Open, the first PGA Tour-sanctioned event in South America.

He showed up in South Florida on Wednesday, rolled out of his own bed to start the tournament on Thursday, and just kept rolling. An opening-round 66 had him tied for second, another 66 on Friday earned him a share of the lead, and he left the course Saturday night up by three after shooting 67.

Villegas is now the fourth player who's still under 30 with at least three PGA Tour wins, joining Adam Scott (six) and Dustin Johnson and Sean O'Hair (three each).

"Tournaments are four rounds and I played three pretty good ones," Villegas said. "I was lucky in one. It's never as easy as you think. I played great the front nine, then I made a couple hiccups and missed some putts, but I stayed patient."

Rose is still looking for win No. 1 in the U.S., though he feels like he's getting closer.

Down by 10 at the start of the day, Rose needed a win to get into the CA Championship at Doral and enhance his chance of qualifying for the Masters, where he tied for fifth in 2007.

Rose opened with four straight birdies on his way to going out in 5-under 30—the best front nine of the tournament—and ended up becoming the fifth player of the week to shoot 64, matching the low round on the Champion course since the Honda moved there in 2007.

He won't play Doral. Augusta remains possible, and he admits that getting back into the world's top 50 is preying on his mind.

"I think I'm where I am because I've been thinking about it too much," said Rose, who started the week 76th in the world. "I've actually been listening a little bit to Camilo. He's said 'I'm out here, I'm enjoying my golf, I'm trying to take my mindset back to when I first came out on tour' ... and that really is the nuts and bolts of what we need to do."

Sure enough, Villegas says he's more relaxed than ever.

Funny how winning helps in that regard. And when it was over, he gave one last tribute to those watching in Colombia.

"I'm sure there's a lot of people there glued to the TV, rooting me on," Villegas said.

AP

Camilo Villegas, of Colombia, lifts the trophy as he poses for photographers after winning the Honda Classic golf tournament in Palm Beach Gardens, Fla., Sunday, March 7, 2010.

# Dodgers' Martin out with pulled groin

**GLENDALE, Ariz.** (AP)—Dodgers catcher Russell Martin is expected to miss opening day after an MRI revealed a pulled groin.

Martin first felt discomfort during a running drill a few days before the Dodgers' first spring game Friday. He started Friday's game against the White Sox and played five innings, even stealing a base.

"We don't know how long it's going to be," general manager Ned Colletti said Sunday in Mesa, where Los Angeles' spring game against a Chicago Cubs split-squad was rained out. "It's four to six weeks right now but you know how that goes."

A.J. Ellis, who has just 13 career major league at-bats, will get the bulk of the catching duties with Martin out. The Dodgers also have veteran backup Brad Ausmus, who turns 41 in April.

On Sunday, Martin called his injury "a little strain," and said it wasn't a big deal. Moments later, manager Joe Torre said otherwise.

"We're going to send him back to L.A. to have another evaluation," Torre said. A team doctor "looked at the MRI and it's a groin pull. He played on it a couple of days thinking it was just spring training aches and pains."

Torre said Martin still can do strengthening exercises for his upper body and taking batting practice was a possibility.

Martin followed a diet and fitness regimen last winter that dropped him well below his regular 210-pound playing weight. But he struggled offensively last season, when his .250 batting average, seven homers and 53 RBIs all were career lows.

He bulked up this winter, adding 20-plus pounds of muscle, with the intention of improving his power numbers. He had a career-high 19 homers and 87 RBIs in 2007.

"The way he came into camp, we can't tell anybody what's best for them," Colletti said. "They have to decide that on their own. Obviously, he decided that to come in in the condition he did is what's best for him.

"He knows what's at stake. He's not somebody who doesn't understand what we're trying to do here nor what he's trying to do personally in his career. So I'm sure that he's not very happy with what happened yesterday either. It's one of those things. Guys get hurt all the time."

Torre wants Martin to trust the doctors and be patient, but the two-time All-Star is hoping to return quickly.

"I'm planning to be ready to go," Martin said. "I'm not planning on missing the first game of the season."

Ellis, 28, was being considered for the backup role before the Dodgers re-signed Ausmus on Jan. 26. Ausmus played in just 36 games in his first season with Los Angeles, and Torre doesn't want to dramatically increase his workload.

"I don't want to run Ausmus into the ground," Torre said.

The Dodgers are not expected to explore a trade for a catcher. Behind Ellis and Ausmus is highly regarded prospect Lucas May.

"At this point and time, finding a catcher that's better than A.J. would be tough to do," Torre said. "He's a workaholic and will give you tough at-bats. He's also a good catcher. I have no hesitations with this kid at all."

## MLB BRIEFS

### Ailing Nathan headed back to Minnesota for tests

**FORT MYERS, Fla.** (AP)—Twins closer Joe Nathan is headed back to Minnesota to get his surgically repaired right elbow checked out. Nathan says he felt fine while he was working out before spring training games. But there was some soreness when he threw 20 pitches against the Boston Red Sox on Saturday. Nathan was expected to fly back to Minnesota on Sunday for tests. The 35-year-old right-hander had surgery Oct. 20 to remove bone spurs from the elbow. Nathan says he isn't too worried, and will know more after doctors compare tests results with those taken last year. Nathan was 2-2 with a 2.10 ERA with a career-high 47 saves last year.

### Reliever Romo ready for 2010

**SCOTTSDALE, Ariz.** (AP)—San Francisco Giants reliever Sergio Romo is looking forward to the opportunity for having a strong season. The right-hander, who turned 27 on March 4, is coming off a solid season, when he was 5-2 with two saves and 11 holds in 45 games. He is trying to build on that, earning a spot on the opening day roster and staying healthy, something he didn't do a year ago. A sprained elbow cost him the spring and the first two months of the 2009 season. "Things are going extremely well," said Romo, who got a save in a 5-3 spring victory over Milwaukee on March 4 and had given up one hit in two innings through Sunday. "It's a great feeling around this clubhouse. You get the sense of, 'Hey, man, we're good,' that we could be a part of something historic." Romo is in better shape, having maintained his playing weight of 185 pounds a year after he lost between 20 and 25 pounds.

### Guzman considering another surgery

**MESA, Ariz.** (AP)—Chicago Cubs reliever Angel Guzman is considering whether to have shoulder surgery even though he has been told the procedure won't necessarily save his career. "It's pretty sad, but what can I do? I'm still breathing," the right-hander said Sunday, one day after learning he had a torn ligament that could sideline him for the season. "I love pitching. I've been pitching since I was 4 years old. I'm not that young, but I think 28's a good age to keep pushing it." After examining Guzman and looking at the MRI of his shoulder, team medical personnel recommended four to six weeks of rest followed by gradual rehabilitation. But Guzman, who missed last season's final two weeks with shoulder pain, said: "I think there is no chance to get it fixed without the surgery."

# Aqua slips past PIC; Shirley's back on track

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

North met south in the 2nd Annual Shirley's Coffee Shop Invitational Basketball League with Aqua Resort Club pulling off a thrilling 79-78 win over Pacific Islands Club on Sunday at the JP Center Basketball Court.

Glenn Aquino and Jesse Mina teamed up in a clutch play to give the Achugao-based Aqua Resort its fifth win in six games. Behind by a hair, 77-78, Aquino went for an inbound play and threw a baseball pass to Mina to Aqua Resort's frontcourt. The perfect pitch landed perfectly in the hands of Mina who nailed a basket to give Aqua Resort a 79-78 lead, with 13 seconds left on the clock.

Darwin Barbo had a chance to regain the lead and steal the win, but missed on his drive to the right wing against two Aqua Resort defenders. Barbo claimed he was fouled but none was called and Aqua Resort grabbed the defensive rebound then used the remaining four seconds pulling up for layups and missing twice as time expired.

Earlier, Barbo had several opportunities to give PIC a cushion as he made six trips to the foul line. He first stepped to the stripe in the last 48 seconds of the match with Aqua Resort ahead, 77-75. Barbo split his charities and then went 2-for-4 in his next trips to the 15-foot line, giving PIC a precarious 78-77 lead.

Aqua Resort went for an inbound after Barbo made his free throw, but Mina's inbound pass was intercepted. PIC took possession and wasted a few more seconds on the clock before Ryan Sanciangco pulled up for a triple and badly missed with the ball hitting nothing but air before going out to the baseline.

When Aqua Resort regained the leather, Aquino saw Mina sprinting to their frontcourt and made the long pass for the winning basket.

In the second game, Shirley's Coffee Shop ended its two-game losing streak after edging Saipan Grand Hotel/Docomo, 96-92.

Errol Peredo exploded for 40 points, making 13 in the fourth quarter. He and William Opone teamed up in the final canto, allowing Shirley's to recover from a 67-70 deficit at the end of the third period. Opone, who was held to only two points in the first three periods, fired 11 in the fourth canto, improving Shirley's record to an even 3-3 slate.

SGH/Docomo has yet to win in four matches.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Aqua Resort Club's Pedro Lizama drives against Pacific Islands Club's Heartim Williams during their game in the Shirley's caging on Sunday at the JP Center Basketball Court.

## First Game

**Shirley's 96** – Peredo 40, Pablo 15, Laxa 13, Opone 13, Sedillo 7, Mojar 6, Licop 2.

**SGH/Docomo 92** – Maliwanag 24, Sison 20, Lee 18, Villacrusis 16, De Leon 8, Alvarez 2, Bustillo 2.

**Scoring by quarters**: 24-27, 49-47, 67-70, 96-92.

## Second Game

**Aqua 79** – Mina 24, Lizama 18, Aquino 15, Gapor 14, Johanes 4, Torres 2, Mc. Achas 2.

**PIC 78** – Barbo 24, Yabut 14, Abuy 13, Sanciangco 11, Jung 6, Dacanay 4, Sublemente 2.

**Scoring by quarters:** 13-18, 33-36, 61-54, 79-78.

## TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

### NBA STANDINGS

**EASTERN CONFERENCE**

**Atlantic Division**

| | W | L | Pct | GB |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Boston | 40 | 21 | .656 | – |
| Toronto | 32 | 29 | .525 | 8 |
| Philadelphia | 23 | 39 | .371 | 17 1/2 |
| New York | 21 | 41 | .339 | 19 1/2 |
| New Jersey | 7 | 55 | .113 | 33 1/2 |

**Southeast Division**

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Orlando | 44 | 20 | .688 | – |
| Atlanta | 40 | 22 | .645 | 3 |
| Miami | 32 | 31 | .508 | 11 1/2 |
| Charlotte | 30 | 31 | .492 | 12 1/2 |
| Washington | 21 | 39 | .350 | 21 |

**Central Division**

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Cleveland | 49 | 15 | .766 | – |
| Milwaukee | 33 | 29 | .532 | 15 |
| Chicago | 31 | 31 | .500 | 17 |
| Detroit | 22 | 41 | .349 | 26 1/2 |
| Indiana | 20 | 43 | .317 | 28 1/2 |

**WESTERN CONFERENCE**

**Southwest Division**

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Dallas | 43 | 21 | .672 | – |
| San Antonio | 36 | 24 | .600 | 5 |
| Memphis | 32 | 31 | .508 | 10 1/2 |
| Houston | 31 | 31 | .500 | 11 |
| New Orleans | 31 | 32 | .492 | 11 1/2 |

**Northwest Division**

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Denver | 42 | 21 | .667 | – |
| Utah | 40 | 22 | .645 | 1 1/2 |
| Oklahoma City | 38 | 24 | .613 | 3 1/2 |
| Portland | 37 | 28 | .569 | 6 |
| Minnesota | 14 | 49 | .222 | 28 |

**Pacific Division**

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| L.A. Lakers | 46 | 18 | .719 | – |
| Phoenix | 40 | 25 | .615 | 6 1/2 |
| L.A. Clippers | 25 | 38 | .397 | 20 1/2 |
| Sacramento | 21 | 42 | .333 | 24 1/2 |
| Golden State | 17 | 45 | .274 | 28 |

**Yesterday's Games**
Philadelphia 114, Toronto 101
Orlando 96, L.A. Lakers 94
Detroit 110, Houston 107, OT
Boston 86, Washington 83
Oklahoma City 108, Sacramento 102
Denver 118, Portland 106

### THE HONDA CLASSIC SCORES

**PALM BEACH GARDENS, Florida** (AP)–Scores Sunday from the Honda Classic, a $5.2 million event at the 7,158-yard, par-70 PGA National Champion Course (FedExCup points in parentheses):

**FINAL ROUND**

| | |
|---|---|
| Camilo Villegas (500), $1,008,000 | 66-66-67-68–267 |
| Anthony Kim (300), $604,800 | 68-64-73-67–272 |
| Justin Rose (190), $380,800 | 70-72-67-64–273 |
| Paul Casey (123), $246,400 | 73-64-70-67–274 |
| Vijay Singh (123), $246,400 | 67-66-69-72–274 |
| Fredrik Jacobson (95), $194,600 | 69-69-69-69–276 |
| Michael Connell (95), $194,600 | 65-71-69-71–276 |
| Charlie Wi (85), $173,600 | 72-67-68-70–277 |
| Lee Westwood (0), $151,200 | 69-71-70-68–278 |
| Brendon de Jonge (75), $151,200 | 70-73-67-68–278 |
| Chris Tidland (75), $151,200 | 73-67-67-71–278 |
| Will MacKenzie (59), $109,760 | 69-72-69-69–279 |
| Jerry Kelly (59), $109,760 | 69-65-74-71–279 |
| J.B. Holmes (59), $109,760 | 71-69-66-73–279 |
| George McNeill (59), $109,760 | 68-70-66-75–279 |
| Nathan Green (59), $109,760 | 65-70-67-77–279 |
| Marc Leishman (50), $68,444 | 74-66-71-69–280 |
| Steve Wheatcroft (50), $68,444 | 71-68-70-71–280 |
| Oliver Wilson (0), $68,444 | 66-73-70-71–280 |
| D.J. Trahan (50), $68,444 | 67-73-69-71–280 |
| Henrik Bjornstad (50), $68,444 | 68-70-70-72–280 |
| Stephen Ames (50), $68,444 | 73-64-71-72–280 |
| Tom Gillis (50), $68,444 | 68-70-70-72–280 |
| Justin Leonard (50), $68,444 | 72-70-66-72–280 |
| Sam Saunders (0), $68,444 | 69-69-69-73–280 |
| Alex Cejka (43), $41,440 | 68-68-75-70–281 |
| Joe Ogilvie (43), $41,440 | 72-68-71-70–281 |
| Charles Howell III (43), $41,440 | 69-70-71-71–281 |
| Mike Weir (43), $41,440 | 71-64-73-73–281 |
| Matt Every (43), $41,440 | 69-66-69-77–281 |
| Chris Stroud (39), $33,950 | 71-68-76-67–282 |
| Bo Van Pelt (39), $33,950 | 71-69-72-70–282 |
| Rich Barcelo (39), $33,950 | 73-70-68-71–282 |
| Graeme McDowell (0), $33,950 | 68-67-71-76–282 |
| Jason Bohn (34), $27,608 | 71-67-74-71–283 |
| Briny Baird (34), $27,608 | 72-70-70-71–283 |
| Jeev Milkha Singh (34), $27,608 | 71-69-71-72–283 |
| Alex Prugh (34), $27,608 | 68-73-69-73–283 |
| Chez Reavie (34), $27,608 | 70-65-74-74–283 |
| Chris Riley (27), $19,118 | 71-71-75-67–284 |
| Rory McIlroy (27), $19,118 | 71-69-75-69–284 |
| Matt Jones (27), $19,118 | 69-73-72-70–284 |
| Craig Bowden (27), $19,118 | 73-69-72-70–284 |
| Padraig Harrington (27), $19,118 | 71-71-72-70–284 |
| Jimmy Walker (27), $19,118 | 75-66-72-71–284 |
| Jason Dufner (27), $19,118 | 72-71-69-72–284 |
| Johnson Wagner (27), $19,118 | 73-69-69-73–284 |
| Angel Cabrera (27), $19,118 | 69-74-68-73–284 |
| Ted Purdy (27), $19,118 | 68-70-70-76–284 |
| John Senden (19), $13,403 | 74-68-73-70–285 |
| Rocco Mediate (19), $13,403 | 73-65-74-73–285 |
| Josh Teater (19), $13,403 | 75-68-69-73–285 |
| Sergio Garcia (19), $13,403 | 74-69-69-73–285 |
| Brandt Snedeker (19), $13,403 | 70-73-68-74–285 |
| Brett Quigley (19), $13,403 | 70-68-71-76–285 |
| Bubba Watson (14), $12,656 | 67-73-73-73–286 |
| Scott Piercy (14), $12,656 | 68-75-69-74–286 |
| Chad Collins (14), $12,656 | 72-70-66-78–286 |
| Jeff Quinney (9), $12,040 | 73-69-76-69–287 |
| Jerod Turner (9), $12,040 | 74-69-72-72–287 |
| Steve Lowery (9), $12,040 | 69-73-72-73–287 |
| Trevor Immelman (9), $12,040 | 73-68-73-73–287 |
| Mark Calcavecchia (9), $12,040 | 73-69-72-73–287 |
| Alexandre Rocha (0), $12,040 | 66-76-71-74–287 |
| Michael Bradley (9), $12,040 | 69-70-71-77–287 |
| Richard S. Johnson (9), $12,040 | 69-72-69-77–287 |
| Blake Adams (3), $11,368S | 75-68-71-74–288 |
| Stuart Appleby (3), $11,368 | 74-69-71-74–288 |
| David Lutterus (3), $11,368 | 73-69-71-75–288 |
| Ernie Els (3), $11,368 | 73-70-70-75–288 |
| Vaughn Taylor (1), $11,088 | 69-73-76-72–290 |
| Mark Wilson (1), $10,976 | 73-69-77-72–291 |
| Derek Lamely (1), $10,864 | 71-72-78-80–301 |
| Garrett Willis (1), $10,752 | 70-73-80-79–302 |

*BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS*

### LOCAL SCORES

**SHIRLEY'S STANDINGS**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| MBI | 6 | 0 |
| World Resort | 4 | 0 |
| Aqua Resort | 5 | 1 |
| Fiesta Resort | 4 | 1 |
| AON/NJ Plus | 3 | 2 |
| Shirley's | 3 | 3 |
| Pacific Islands Club | 2 | 2 |
| Mobil | 2 | 2 |
| TBK | 2 | 2 |
| Pepsi | 1 | 2 |
| McGraw-Hill | 1 | 3 |
| Bank of Guam | 0 | 3 |
| Hard Rock | 0 | 4 |
| Docomo/SGH | 0 | 4 |
| Cell Pro | 0 | 4 |

## BACK

*From Page 28*

In the overall men's division, Saipan's Ronald Villafria was runner-up to Japan's Takeshi Aoyama, as the former timed in at 41:22 against the latter's 37:51. Four more Japanese runners—Mitsuru Kimura (43:16), Hiroaki Ueno (43:29), Manabu Aoki (43:36), and Hiroki Ikeuchi (44:00)—completed the Top 6.

In the age group competition in the men's division, the CNMI's Douglas Dillay (45:42) prevailed in the 15 to 19 age group; 13-year-old Ryogo Nakadai (49:17) won the 14-and-under; Yoshikatsu Negishi (46:17) in 20 to 29; ShoheiYamazaki (52:48) in 30 to 39; Ryuji Namba (44:14) in 40 to 40; Saipan's Steven Pixley (44:37) in 50 to 59; and Sakae Sato (47:02) in over 60.

In the men's half marathon, Japan was a dominant force with Kennichi Yamauchi finishing first at a blistering time of 1:17:24. Rounding out the Top 6 overall were Masaaki Nakakahara (1:18:55), Hiroshi Seino (1:26:16), Takaaki Kokado (1:26:44), Saipan's Tom Linden (1:29:07), and Korea's Keum Bae Ji (1:29:22).

In the men's age group competition, Japan swept the Top 6. Winners were Kotaro Matsubara (2:41:58), Ken Nakadai (1:54:30), Kazuki Chiba (1:41:26), Takuya Takahashi (1:30:46), Akira Honda (1:30:46), Akihisa Otani (1:44:03), and Hideaki Uryu (1:31:41).

In the women's division, Mari Ozaki was more than 15 minutes ahead of her closest pursuer, Mika Okamoto, as the former timed in at 1:19:39 against the latter's 1:34:45. Akiko Ofuchi, Yukiko Sugiyama, Sayuri Yuyuma, and Fumiko Kobayashi completed Japan's sweep in the women's overall division.

In the women's age group division, Japan went 5-for-6 with Guam's Amber Sarkkinen the only non-Japanese top finisher. Sarkkinen timed in at 1:45:57 to rule the 20 to 29 age group. Other age group winners were Miho Kato (2:20:32), Hiromi Mochizuki (1:50:13), Mariko Mori (1:44:31), Kyoko Tanaka (1:45:43), and Reiko Kinoshita (1:47:42).

The half marathon course started and ended at AMP with runners heading first to Marianas Resort, then to the northern part of the island along Beach Road, and turning back at the Oleai Beach Park.

## SWEET

*From Page 28*

continued to nail important baskets for Mt. Carmel. Lebria's inside basket gave MCS a 29-28 lead.

GCA had the chance to grab the driver's seat and steal the win for its back-to-back title, but Ta muffed two clutch free throws.

The Lady Knights are coached by Rommel Calcena. Other members of the team are Vanessa and Chelsea Bartolo, Ginny Wu, Jasmine Che, Carey Demapan, Aiyishi Roberto, Shamiah Alvarez, Erin Mendiola, Josie Santos, and Rachel Borja.

Meanwhile, Saipan International School and Agape Christian School were battling for the boys junior varsity crown at press time.

The SIS Geckos were aiming to defend the crown they won last year against Mt. Carmel, while Agape was hoping to nail a championship in its debut but in the league.

**Mt. Carmel School 29 –** K. Lebria 16, R. Kautz 5, Taylor 4, M. Kautz 2, Demapan 2, Bartolo 1.

**Grace Christian Academy 28 –** Muna 10, Pangelinan 10, Chargualag 6, Ta 2.

**Scoring by quarters:** 6-12, 10-18, 22-24, 29-28.

## YVETTE

*From Page 28*

Doha meet will run from March 12 to 14 and Bennett will see action in the qualifying heat on March 12 at 6:26pm (March 13, 1:26pm on Saipan).

The indoor meet will be held at the sprawling Aspire Dome, the largest indoor sporting facility of its kind in the world. Opened in 2005 with football star Pelé among the guests of honor, the facility covers an area of 120,000 square meters with a total seating capacity of 15,000. It was the venue of the 2006 Asian Games.

Bennett will travel alone to Doha and will meet the rest of the delegates of the Oceania Athletics Association there. She will be the second CNMI runner since 2006 to represent the Commonwealth in an indoor race. In 2006, Tyrone Omar also joined the 60m run of the indoor meet in Moscow, Russia.

A day after Bennett's departure, three more CNMI athletes will be leaving Saipan to participate in the 2010 Oceania Under 18 Area Championships to be conducted in Sydney, Australia.

Reylyn Sapong, Ryan Ichihara and Lia Rangamar will go to the Land Down Under with NMA developmental officer Elias Rangamar.

Elias Rangamar said Sapong will be racing in the 400m and 800m run, while Ichihara is entered in the 100m and 200m races. Lia Rangamar is doing field events, as she will be competing in the long jump and javelin throw.

"These athletes have been practicing for months, but have yet to reach their peak. It may very had to achieve a CNMI record, but we are encouraging them to go for personal best marks," Elias Rangamar said.

"This is a good experience for young athletes like them to compete with the best in the region and in the world. This experience will be very helpful when we bring them to Palau for the 2010 Micronesian Games," the older Rangamar added.

## 9 COUNTRIES

*From Page 28*

Saipan returnees are defending champion and Great Britain's Sam Gardner, who was expected to arrive on island last night, and Swiss Renata Bucher. Joining the defending champions are American Shonny Vanlandingham, Aussie Jason Chalker, Canada's Mike Vine, and Japan's Takahiro Ogasawara and Yu Yamoto.

Wolf said including these pros, XTERRA Saipan so far has drawn 57 individuals, four championship teams, four in sport individual and one sport team. Mojica is expecting the numbers to grow before the weekend begins, as there are still local teams/triathletes who have yet to register.

Mojica added clearing of the course has started as early as last week and is expected to be completed mid this week.

There will be a minor change on the course in the run portion, as participants will have to make a detour in the jungle part of the run and navigate some parts of the Coffee Trail Run course.

The race will begin and end at the Americal Memorial Park. The swim leg will start at 6:30am and the first finisher in the Championship is expected to cut the tape before 10am.

Before Saturday's main event, there will be a 5K/10K Run with proceeds of the race going to the Marianas Tourism Education Council.

# 2009-2010 MISO Basketball League Finals

Kagman's Juan Maratita challenges the defense of two Southern players during their varsity title game.

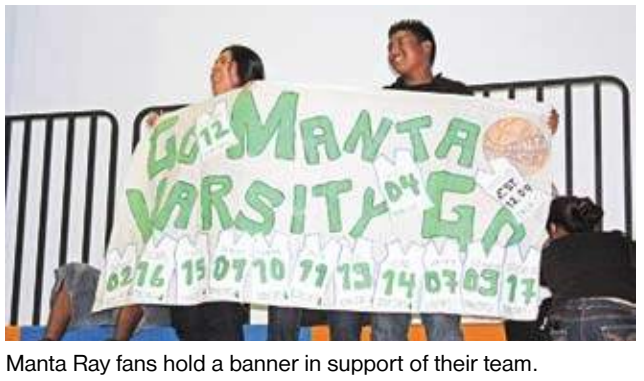
Saipan Southern High School's Chris Mizer (18) blocks Kagman's Francis Santiago.

Kagman's Josh Jones, center, drives against two Kagman defenders.

Kagman's Jimmy Brel is sandwiched by two Southern defenders.

Southern's Nicko Salem, left, tries to swipe away the ball from Kagman's Jon Norita, right.

Southern's Ian Benevente makes an undergoal shot against two Kagman defenders.




Manta Ray fans hold a banner in support of their team.

**PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO**

Saipan Southern High School's Bradley Brostrom picks up a loose ball during their title game against Kagman High School in the junior varsity division of the 2009-2010 MISO Basketball League last week at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

Kagman and Southern players take a breather during their extended game.

Kagman and Southern players prepare for the rebound play.

Magic get revenge, top Lakers in finals rematch

PAGE 24

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Aqua slips past PIC; Shirley's back on track

PAGE 26



# Sweet revenge for Lady Knights

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Mt. Carmel School foiled Grace Christian Academy's bid for back-to-back girls junior varsity championship, as the Lady Knights escaped with a 29-28 victory in their title match against the Lady Eagles yesterday in the Coalition of Private School Sports Association Basketball League at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Kaylani Lebria fired 16 points in the title match to make sure the Lady Knights will not have another bridesmaid finish this year. Mt. Carmel lost the girls junior varsity title to GCA last season, as the Eagles cruised to a 22-14 victory.

The Lady Eagles seemed headed for their second straight championship when it controlled the first half of the make-or-break game. Julie Muna and Lorna Pangelinan tallied four points apiece, while Rinel Chargualaf and Keena Ta added a basket each, giving GCA a 12-6 lead in the first quarter.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Members of the Mt. Carmel School girls junior varsity team flash the No. 1 sign after beating Grace Christian Academy in the finals of the Coalition of Private School Sports Association Basketball League yesterday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Mt. Carmel drew no more than a field goal from its players with Lebria, Michelle Kautz, and Amy Taylor nailing only two points each in the opening quarter.

Muna and Pangelinan continued to lead GCA's offense in the second quarter, while the Lady Knights played even worse, making only four points. At the break, the Lady Eagles increased their lead to eight, 18-10.

Lebria then made the move in the third canto, knocking down eight points. Richelle Kautz, who was scoreless in the first half, broke into the scoreboard, drilling four and moving the Lady Knights within two, 22-24, entering the final canto.

GCA's offense in the third canto slowed down with Muna held to two points. Pangelinan was consistent with her shooting, adding four more markers in the third canto.

However, both Pangelinan and Muna went cold in the crucial fourth canto, while Lebria

See SWEET on Page 26

## Back-to-back 10K victories for Jim

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

After letting the Japanese star in the marathon and half marathon, Saipan-based runners stepped up in the 10K event of Saturday's 2010 Winter Festival of Runs.

Micronesian Games medalist Noriko Jim led the list of CNMI runners who made it to the Top 6 overall and age group division of the shortest race last weekend. The 39-year-old champion of various 10K races on Saipan ruled the women's division of Saturday's run, timing in at 41 minutes and 33 seconds. Jim and the more than 200 10K participants started the race from AMP, headed to Beach Road, and made the turn back to AMP just before reaching First Hawaiian Bank in San Jose.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Saipan's Noriko Jim cuts the tape at the finish line at the AMP to score back-to-back wins in the 10K event of Saturday's 2010 Winter Festival of Runs.

Jim bested three other Japanese runners—Masako Uyama (47:57), Akiko Miller (48:16), and Makiko Uchimura (49:57)—to defend the title she won last year. Miller did the race with her son in stroller and managed to finish third. Saipan's Dawn Hammermeister came in fifth place at 50:14, while Japan's Kyodo Matsuda (50:51) completed the Top 6.

CNMI's Reylyn Sapong ruled the women's 15 to 19 age group, clocking in at 57:08, while another Saipan bet, Suzy Kindel, topped the women's 50 to 59 age group after submitting 57:53. Other age group winners in the women's division were Yuki Nakamura (20-29), Naoki Kijima (30-39), Akane Imaya (55:05), and Tsuneko Kanemaru (1:00:44).

See BACK on Page 26

## Yvette off to Qatar, 3 others heading to Australia

Bennett | Sapong | Rangamar | Ichihara

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Four CNMI athletes will be participating in off-island track meets this week and will be aiming for personal best records.

Northern Marianas Athletics' Robin Sapong said Yvette Bennett will leave for Doha, Qatar, tomorrow to represent the CNMI to the 13th IAAF World Indoor Championships.

The 19-year-old Bennett will compete in the 60m event, which will have its preliminary heats in the first day of the three-day tournament. The

See YVETTE on Page 26

## 9 countries represented in XTERRA Saipan

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

This Saturday's 8th Annual XTERRA Saipan Championship will lure triathletes from nine other countries besides the CNMI.

Wolf Mojica, who is one of the many individuals organizing the Crown Jewel of XTERRA Tour, said participants in this weekend's off-road triathlon event will come from Great Britain, Germany, Switzerland, Australia, United States, Canada, Guam, Japan, and the Philippines.

"Majority of the participants will be from Japan and we are looking at surpassing last year's record," Mojica said.

Last year, combined participants in XTERRA Saipan and XTERRA Sport reached around 100.

Leading this year's XTERRA

See 9 COUNTRIES on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Participants in last year's XTERRA Saipan head to the waters off Micro Beach.